

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 11th December 1923.

The House met at 11 o'clock, the President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.) in the chair.

I

NEW MEMBER.

The following Member was sworn in :—

Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo (Ganjām).

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—*

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions and answers shall be arranged in order of subjects.

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

ARMS ACT.

Licences issued under the Arms Act in the Coimbatore district.

15 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of licences issued in the Coimbatore district under the Arms Act and the number of licences issued for the possession of revolvers in the first four months of the year 1922 and in the corresponding period of the year 1923; whether there has been a large reduction and, if so, whether there are any special reasons for the same;

(b) whether the reduction has been made by the order of the District Magistrate himself or at the suggestion of the Government;

(c) whether there are any rules framed by the Government in the matter, or whether it is left entirely to the discretion of the District Magistrate;

(d) whether the Government have any intention of interfering in the matter, especially in view of the fact that the Coimbatore district contains a large area as reserved forest having wild beasts, etc.; and

(e) whether the Government have any objection to form a small committee to advise the District Magistrate on the matter of issuing licences?

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A.—(a) The figures asked for are as follows :—

	1922.	1923.
Total number of licences issued during the first four months of	246	257
Number of licences issued for the possession of revolvers during the first four months of	44	15

There has been a reduction in the number of revolver licences because in certain cases their possession was found to be unnecessary or undesirable.

(b) The District Magistrate made the reduction on his own initiative.

(c) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the Resolution of the Government of India in the Home Department No. 2125-C (Police), dated the 21st March 1919, published at pages 528-530 of the supplement to the *Gazette of India*, dated the 22nd March 1919, of which paragraph 4 (7) (i) runs as follows :—

“Licences for revolvers and pistols will be issued only in cases of real necessity and to persons of approved character, the fee being fixed at an enhanced rate of Rs. 10....”

District Magistrates have general discretion as to the grant of licences under the Arms Act.

(d) The Government do not propose to interfere with the District Magistrate's discretion in the matter. A revolver except perhaps in the hands of a very expert marksman is of no value as a means of destroying wild animals.

(e) The Government are not prepared to appoint a committee to advise the District Magistrate regarding the issue of licences.

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“Sir, in the answer to question No. 15 it is said that the District Magistrate made the reduction in the number of licences on his own initiative. May I know whether any police report was received in those cases to say that licences should not be issued?”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“I have no information as to the procedure adopted by the District Magistrate in refusing licences.”

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“I wish to know, Sir, whether the parties concerned were given notice to explain why their licences should not be cancelled.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“I have no information, Sir; but if the hon. Member wishes to obtain the information, he may give notice of a fresh question.”

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Influenza-vaccine tubes.

16 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number of influenza-vaccine tubes prepared in the years 1921 to 1923 in the King Institute and the rate at which they were sold to the public;

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(b) how many of them were sold or sent on demand to Government institutions; and

(c) whether the number of tubes manufactured was far in excess of the demand for them, and whether the large excess was buried under-ground, and if so, the number and cost of the tubes so buried?

A.—(a) The amount of influenza-vaccine prepared during the years 1921-1923 in the King Institute was as follows:—

Year.	Cubic centimetres.
1921	4,070
1922	15,820
1923 from January to 24th November ...	7,235

Till October 1921 the rate charged for the vaccine was two annas per cubic centimetre. Since then it has been supplied free of cost to the public in British India.

(b) The quantity supplied to Government and other institutions was as follows:—

	Government institutions. Cubic centimetres.	Other institutions. Cubic centimetres.
1921	18,609	2,971
1922	8,030	4,950
1923 from January to 24th November ...	5,370	940

(c) No. None of the stock manufactured in the years 1921-1923 was destroyed; but the stock manufactured in 1919 at the request of the Government of India was destroyed in April 1923, as in October 1920 the Government of India approved the manufacture of new strength vaccine and as it was impossible to convert the old strength vaccine into new strength vaccine.

Repairs to the Srirangam temple.

17 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) if the Resolution of this Council to appoint a Committee to report about the repairs to the Srirangam temple has been accepted by the Government and if a Committee has been appointed;

(b) if the Committee has begun its work; and if so, to what extent?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Committee met once at Trichinopoly and perused the records available. Before proceeding further, the Committee thought it desirable to examine certain pleas of the temple trustees and appointed a Sub-Committee consisting of the Collector of Trichinopoly as President, Sir T. Desikachari and Mr. T. C. Tangavelu Pillai to examine them. The report of the Sub-Committee is awaited.

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Water-supply to the Coimbatore town.

18 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what stage has been reached by the scheme for giving a water-supply to Coimbatore town; and

(b) whether the matter has been considered by the Government after the hon. the Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department visited Coimbatore and gave some hope at a public meeting of the scheme being given effect to very soon; and, if so, whether any decision has been arrived at; and if no decision has been yet arrived at, whether there is any chance of such a decision being arrived at in the near future?

A.—A scheme for the supply of water to Coimbatore from the Siruvani river was submitted by the Sanitary Engineer in December 1919. According to the latest estimates, the scheme is likely to cost Rs. 44.2 lakhs, including centage charges at 30 per cent of the cost of the works. The Government usually pay half the cost of major water-supply schemes and lend the other half to the Council concerned. In this case, the Council has therefore to borrow Rs. 22.1 lakhs, but it is not prepared to levy the water-tax at more than $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the rental value of property, which will enable it to borrow only about Rs. 14 lakhs. The question of reducing the centage charges for the execution of water-supply schemes is now under the consideration of the Government and as soon as a decision is arrived at, the Government will pass final orders on the Coimbatore scheme. In the list of schemes approved by the Government for execution, Coimbatore occupies the first place in the order of priority.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—“Will the hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to inform me of the approximate sum spent for experimental purposes in connexion with the introduction of water-supply for Coimbatore town from Siruvani up to this date?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“I have no information, Sir.”

Water-supply of Coonoor.

19 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the question of improving the water-supply of Coonoor is at present;

(b) whether the Municipality of Coonoor has submitted plans and estimates regarding this matter;

(c) if an application has been made for financial help and whether the Government have any intention of rendering any such help; and

(d) if so, when and to what extent?

A.—(a) & (b) The Sanitary Engineer prepared in August last a scheme of improvements known as the ‘Karadipallam Scheme’ which has been accepted by the Council. The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, has however, after an inspection of the

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place on the 29th and 30th October last in company with the Sanitary Engineer and some municipal councillors, proposed a revised scheme. This has been referred to the Municipal Council for acceptance. The Sanitary Engineer is also being asked to submit estimates for the revised scheme.

- (c) & (d) In December 1920, the Council applied for a grant of Rs. 22,691 equivalent to half the *increased* cost of the revised estimates for the scheme as it then stood and for a loan of a like amount with interest at 4 per cent per annum. The question of finance will have to be considered afresh when a decision has been arrived at on the scheme to be adopted. Ordinarily the Government bear one half of the cost of water-supply and drainage schemes and advance the other half as a loan, if the local body requires it.

RAILWAYS.

Scheme regarding Railway line between Singanallur and Podanur.

20 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state if any scheme to divert the Railway line between Singanallur and Podanur so as to make it run *via* Coimbatore is in consideration; and if so, if there is any likelihood of the scheme being taken up at an early date?

A.—Yes. The matter is under correspondence with the Railway Board.

REVENUE ESTABLISHMENT.

Removal of the Revenue Divisional office, Gobichettipalayam.

21 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the proposal to remove the Revenue Divisional office from Gobichettipalayam is still under consideration and, if so, in what stage or whether it has been dropped?

A.—The proposal is under the consideration of Government and has not been dropped.

VILLAGE ESTABLISHMENT.

Pay of village officers.

22 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) if there were village officers getting a salary of Rs. 15 a month before the introduction of the scheme to give village officers a minimum salary of Rs. 15 per mensem;

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, the number of such officers and the reason that enabled them to receive a higher pay;

(c) whether the introduction of the new scheme of enhanced pay referred to in (a) has benefited in any way those village officers who were receiving not less than Rs. 15 per mensem; and

(d) if they have derived no benefit, whether the Government have any intention of taking their case into consideration and giving them any increase whatever?

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A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Four hundred and fifteen karnams and 19 headmen were in receipt of Rs. 15 and more each per mensem before the minimum pay of village officers was raised to Rs. 15 per mensem.

The comparatively large beriz, the size and the importance of the villages concerned account for the higher pay in the case of these officers.

(c) No.

(d) No.

The Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill.

22-A Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a leading article in the issue of the *Madras Mail* of Saturday the 8th December 1923, wherein it is stated that His Excellency the Governor is sending back to the Council the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill for reconsideration on the hon. the Chief Minister's advice and whether the statement is correct?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, in sending the message to the Legislative Council about the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill, His Excellency the Governor decided to take the step in consultation with me and with my approval."

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know at what time the hon. the Chief Minister and his colleagues were consulted by His Excellency the Governor?"

(No reply.)

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I would, with your permission, put another question since the previous question has not been answered. I should like to know from the hon. the Chief Minister as to when he was consulted by His Excellency the Governor with regard to the sending of the gracious message given yesterday. Again, Sir, I wish to know if the hon. the Chief Minister knew of this intention of His Excellency the Governor at the time the hon. the Chief Minister replied to the No-Confidence Motion in this House. Sir, I wish also to ask the hon. the Chief Minister whether, in view of the statement that he has now made and in view of the terms of the message of His Excellency, he still considers it consistent with the dignity of his office and the dignity of this Council that he ought to continue as Minister."

MR. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Sir, I should like to put a few supplementary questions arising out of the answer given by the hon. the Chief Minister. I would like to know on what date the hon. the Chief Minister was consulted and on what date he gave his advice or expressed his approval. That is very important and I do not think that is a supplementary question."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"If it is not a supplementary question, the hon. Member is out of order."

MR. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Sir, I was going to say 'which requires notice.' Because, this is a thing which must be within the personal knowledge of the hon. the Chief Minister and he owes it to this House that he should give a reply in such matters. That is my submission, Sir."

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The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I do not think it is necessary that I should answer this question.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ Sir, there are some other points also on which I should like to know what view the hon. the Chief Minister takes. That is, whether it is not a fact that with regard to this Bill the Government of India sent a despatch, and the Madras Government also sent a despatch. Was any suggestion made in that reply that this Bill, either in part or in whole, would be referred back for the reconsideration of this House ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I rather think that these questions do not at all arise out of Question No. 22-A. Question 22-A simply asks the Chief Minister to state whether his attention has been drawn to a leading article in the issue of the *Madras Mail* of Saturday, etc., and whether the statement made therein is correct. He has answered both these questions. Now, the hon. Member goes on and wants some information about the correspondence between the Governments of Madras and of India. Surely, that is not a supplementary question.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ Sir, my humble submission is this : The hon. the Chief Minister now confesses that he gave a certain advice to His Excellency with regard to the gracious message which was delivered by you yesterday. Now, it is very important for us who are trying to understand the constitutional position adopted by the hon. the Chief Minister, to know on what date such advice was given and whether there was any indication previous to that, that he would be prepared to take the course now adopted. My submission is that you, Sir, lay down certain rules with regard to the legislative procedure ; and if the hon. the Chief Minister who is supposed to have the confidence that he is supposed to have enjoyed, could give His Excellency this advice, viz., that a certain measure for which he is supposed to have enjoyed the entire confidence of the former House would be referred back to this House, then this House, with due submission, may claim to exercise the same right. Sir, what I am trying to show is that the hon. the Chief Minister's position is untenable.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ We cannot have a general debate with regard to that matter.”

British Empire Exhibition.

22-B Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of money so far spent by the Government on the British Empire Exhibition of 1924, and

(b) the amount of money which, according to present calculation, will have to be spent hereafter on the said Exhibition ?

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ The amount already spent is Rs. 55,461 and the amount that is expected to be spent is Rs. 2,53,039.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Is the hon. the Minister quite certain as to the figures ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ That is what I gather from the office records.”

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Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" With your permission, Sir, I shall try to clear the situation. Though it may be that only Rs. 55,461 has been spent already, obligations must have been incurred which go much higher than that figure. I may say that it exceeds a lakh and odd rupees."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, I did not ask any such question."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" The hon. the President wanted to know whether the figures given by the hon. the Minister for Development were correct."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Probably I was in error—(laughter)—and my interruption was uncalled for."

III

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIES.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that the following candidates have been nominated for election as representatives of the Council on the Board of Industries :—

Mr. J. A. Saldanha,
Mr. K. V. Ramachari,
Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu,
Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib,
Mr. Sami Venkatachala Chettiyar.

" As the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, viz., 2, election by means of single transferable vote has to be held. The Secretary will deliver to the Members a list of nominated candidates at 1-30 p.m. to-day and hon. Members are requested to vote for two candidates and return the voting papers to the Secretary before 11 a.m. to-morrow."

IV

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY laid on the table * G.O. No. 1054, Finance, dated 4th
11-15 a.m. December 1923, regarding the constitution of the Finance
Committee for the remainder of the year 1923-24.

V

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

EXECUTION OF THE POLAVARAM ISLAND PROJECT IN THE GODAVARI DISTRICT.

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, I beg to move :—

2. *That this Council recommends to the Government the immediate execution of the irrigation scheme known as the Polavaram Island Project in the district of Godavari, the investigation of which has been completed in all its aspects.*

This scheme, Sir, relates to the island of Polavaram in the taluk of Amalapur in the Godavari district. It is an island in the sense that it is surrounded by

* Printed as Appendix on page 304 infra.

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water on all sides. Two branches of the river Godavari bound it on the east, north and west, while on the south the Bay of Bengal borders it. The whole of the taluk, together with the adjoining villages, forms what is known as the central delta of the Godavari and its system. It is only this portion of the island of Polavaram that is not irrigated, because it is intercepted by a branch of the river known as Vridha Gowtami. This scheme involves the construction of an aqueduct over that branch of the river and taking water by means of a canal which passes alongside the embankments of the river down to the island itself. If only the aqueduct is constructed over this branch of the river, water can be taken. Sir, there is every facility to undertake this work. The commandable area is about 23,134 acres. There are eleven villages in this island with about 20,000 people occupying them. At present the cultivation is carried on with the precarious aid of the rain water or of the Godavari water in high floods, and it is only in high floods that water can be taken from the Godavari and the river is not always in high floods. When the floods are low, and when the river is not in floods at all, the sea water has its ebb and flow with the result that the water will be saltish and not fit for cultivation. The whole island is surrounded by embankments. But unfortunately, added to the precarious measure of the rains and the river water, other difficulties like the breaches in the bund on the south have to be faced. Some 20 years ago the southern bund was breached with the result that the sea water had its own inundation and crops were submerged year after year. During the last twenty years it was perhaps the order of the day that there was suspension in the kist because the crops had failed. So far as the zamindari villages are concerned—there are four of them, the others being Government villages—the suspension of kists and rent suits were very common. The result is that to-day we find that this portion of the district surrounded on all sides by plenty and prosperity is in a very wretched and unhappy condition of misery and poverty.

“This work was originally intended to be started about the year 1913. We first heard of this scheme in that year, but though ten years have passed, the work has not yet been executed. I find, Sir, from a book that was recently issued to us containing a report of the irrigation projects, this scheme is included as No. 14 in the list there. I take it that the serial order is of no consequence.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“The hon. Member is correct.”

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“I told the House that the commandable area is about 23,000 and odd acres. In this report I find that the area proposed to be brought under irrigation is said to be 19,200 acres. Lower down, however, under the remarks of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, I find that the irrigated area is estimated at 16,316 acres. I may mention, Sir, in this connexion that for the area originally proposed to be irrigated the water-rate was thought to be fixed at Rs. 6-4-0. The estimated cost of the capital expenditure was somewhere about Rs. 9,60,000. To-day the prices have risen and we find that the estimated cost has gone up to Rs. 18,70,000. That is beyond the control of any Government or Public Works Department authorities. Everything has gone up in price, and the cost of these works has naturally gone up. But there is one point which I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Member in charge of Irrigation, namely, that this estimate

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of 16 thousand acres to be brought under irrigation is very low indeed. I have already said that the area commanded is 23 thousand acres and though in the first part of this book I find 19 thousand, it is now reduced to 16 thousand acres. The result, Sir, is that the cost per acre will be more and the water-rate will have to be enhanced accordingly. I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Member that it is possible to increase the area to be brought under cultivation by some three or four thousand acres. I do not see the reason why it is now brought down to 16 thousand acres. Possibly the area known as the mamul wet area is excluded. In these villages there is something like 3,832 acres of land said to be mamul wet area. But surely the hon. Member is aware that there was a time when Government actually issued orders to obtain relinquishment fees from the owners of these villages, relinquishing any rights to free water. In fact even the form was prescribed and the Collector of the district was asked to take promissory deeds from these people. I know another thing, namely, that there was a time when no water-tax was charged for taking water from the Godavari river. Later on, Government issued an order to charge water-rate on these so-called mamul wet lands. Out of the eleven villages the people of ten villages pay the water-rate for the so-called mamul wet lands. Only one village called Tillakuppam refused to pay. I was told that with the exception of a single village of about a thousand acres all the other villages have been paying the water-rate. If that is so, Sir, it will be noticed that out of 3,800 acres of land known as mamul wet land at least 3 thousand acres could be charged water-rate and the cost of construction would be reduced and the water-rate need not be raised to the high figure of Rs. 11-8-0 as I find in this book. As I told the House at first it was only Rs. 6-4-0. Later on, when the expenditure rose it was proposed to levy Rs. 9-6-0. I believe that several people have signed agreements willing to pay that rate—nearly three-fourths of the people have already signed. Now, Sir, there is a proposal to raise the rate to Rs. 11-8-0. If this so-called wet area is included certainly the revenue would rise and the percentage of recovery would be quite sufficient to meet the interest on the expenditure proposed to be incurred.

“ I have one remark to make to this House. Let them not suppose that the money to be spent on this work will have to be taken from the revenues of the country. It will come from borrowed money, and under the recent Act Local Governments have wide borrowing powers. This I am sure is known to many in this House, though I thought it necessary to remove any misapprehension on that account. Assuming for a moment that this rate of Rs. 11-8-0 would be necessary, or that the mamul wet area is to be excluded in calculating the rate, I would suggest one point for the consideration of the hon. Member in charge of Irrigation. This scheme is only an extension of the existing anicut system and everybody knows that when the anicut system was constructed, it was by money borrowed at the rate of 3 per cent; and to-day, if I am not mistaken, not only the whole money spent on the great anicut system was recovered, but something like 19 or 20 per cent is being realized year after year. I put it to the hon. Member to consider whether it is fair to take into calculation the profits and the losses for each extension, say, the extension of a single canal having a few thousand acres to irrigate, and whether it would not be right to take into account all the profits which the Government derived during the last 30 or 40 years. I mention that, Sir, only to show that this rate of Rs. 11-8-0 need not be charged and the

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Government may be content with a lower rate of Rs. 9-6-0. It is only a difference of Rs. 2. As I have already submitted to the House, the villagers are poor. They have suffered on account of want of rains, inability to get the Godavari river water and the inundations of the sea. It will be a great hardship if Rs. 11-8-0 is charged. I hope, Sir, that the Government will be able to see their way to construct this work as early as possible. I do not want to reduce or lower the rate of Rs. 9-6-0. But certainly any increase over that would be a great hardship to the people.

“ I hope, Sir, that the hon. Member in charge of Irrigation will take up the matter at the earliest possible moment and begin to execute the project.”
11-30 a.m.

Diwan Bahadur K. SURYANARAYANAMURTI NAYUDU :—“ Sir, I heartily second the Resolution now moved. The Polavaram project is not a new one as the hon. Mover has said. It was under investigation for more than 12 or 13 years. The investigation is now complete and the preliminary works have also been done. It is high time, therefore, that the work be taken up as early as possible. As regards the rates that are now raised, the hon. Mover has spoken at great length, and I do not propose to waste the time of the House. With these words, I wish to heartily second the Resolution.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, before dealing specifically with some of the points adverted to by the hon. Mover of the Resolution, let me assure him and the House that it has been my humble endeavour since I took charge of the portfolio of Irrigation to try and extend irrigation facilities as far as possible, and no effort will be spared to get the funds necessary for the inauguration of the great schemes which are now pending execution. Hon. Members of the House who have been undoubtedly following the course of events must have noticed that there are two great schemes on hand, the Cauvery and the Tungabhadra schemes, which are engaging the anxious attention of the Government. I am only mentioning this as a prefatory remark to show that the Government have been conscious that in irrigation lies one of the main roots of prosperity in this country and it has been the object of the Government to extend irrigation facilities in order to produce the much desired result. In regard to this particular project, hon. Members will excuse me if I give them a few details. The investigation of the project, as rightly stated by the hon. Mover, is now complete. The proposal is to extend the Godavari delta irrigation across the Polavaram island, the required supply of water being obtained from the central delta by means of an aqueduct as rightly stated by the hon. Member, Sir Reddi Nayudu. The estimated cost of the scheme as revised comes up to Rs. 18.55 lakhs, and according to the revised revenue forecast furnished by the Board of Revenue in 1922, the total area irrigable under the project is 16,316 acres from which a net revenue of Rs. 1,34,094 is anticipated taking the water-rate at Rs. 9-6-0 which is the rate which the ryots were willing and have agreed to pay. It is found that this project can, now under the classification of the Government of India, be classed as productive only if a water-cess of about Rs. 11-8-0 per acre is guaranteed. Such a guarantee, as hon. Members will know, cannot be enforced unless and until there is on the Statute Book some statute like the Irrigation Law. And one of the main reasons, and indeed, the chief reason why, the execution of this project has been delayed by Government, why it has not been set on foot, is the delay in

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the passing into law of the Irrigation Bill. And hon. Members may rest assured that this particular project is one which has obtained the assent of every competent authority which has investigated the matter and will be put on hand at the earliest possible moment subject of course to that consideration which I have already adverted to, namely, the passing of the Irrigation Bill.

“Sir, I shall now deal with some of the points raised in the debate by the hon. Mover. As regards the area, as to which there has been a certain difference of opinion, viz., whether it is 16,000 or 19,000 acres, it is undoubtedly true that the question of the mamul wet is in abeyance and it is the diminution of the total forecasted area of 19,000 by 3,000 and odd acres that has led to the present forecast of 16,000 acres. Following the line of the remarks that fell from the hon. Mover, investigation will at once be set on foot by me in order to ascertain whether the changes in the direction proposed by him cannot with safety be resorted to by the Government. My hon. Friend referred to a recent Act enabling the Local Government to borrow more freely. I wonder if the hon. Member had in his mind the Trade Facilities Act and the resolution of the Economic Conference or whether the hon. Member referred to his own Act.”

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—“Neither, Sir. I referred to the Devolution Rules under the Government of India Act under which greater powers of borrowing were given to the Local Governments.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“It is perfectly true, Sir, that greater powers are given to the Government, but they have very large irrigation programmes everywhere in the country and though the Government of India are much more free in handing over all moneys for irrigation purposes than before, their resources, they have assured us, are not limitless. But so far as this particular scheme is concerned, I do not think financial reasons will stand in the way of its being put into execution. It seems to me, as already referred to by the hon. Mover, that Mr. Morgan's report of the irrigation projects deals exhaustively with this and many other projects and it will be seen that not only this but a dozen other schemes have been held over not for financial reasons—for we are confident that financially we shall be subsidised—but on account of the irrigation law being in a somewhat inchoate condition. Hon. Members will rest assured that when matters are set right with regard to that particular, this scheme shall be pushed forward. In the meantime, I shall set on foot the investigation which is contemplated and suggested in the course of the valuable remarks of the hon. Mover.”

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—“Sir, I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the hon. Member for Irrigation for the kind assurance that he has given and for the kind statement that he has made. He has told us that there are no financial difficulties. He has told us that the Government are willing to execute the work at the earliest possible moment. It is only the difficulty of the passage of the Irrigation Bill that stands in the way. I hope, Sir, that the Irrigation Bill will be introduced in the House as soon as possible and I can assure him that so far as the provisions regarding this particular matter are concerned, enabling the Government to recover such rates as they may prescribe, enabling them to enter into and obtain contracts, to obtain relinquishment deeds and matters like that, he can rest assured that the support of myself and of the hon. Members from my district

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will be at his service. There is, however, one remark which I should like to mention in this connexion. If, for any reason, he is not prepared or unable to place the Bill before the House as soon as possible . . .

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I expect, Mr. President, to place the Bill before the January session."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I am glad of that, Sir. I would only add that if for any reason, on his own account or for reasons beyond his control, there should be any delay in the passing of the Bill, I would suggest, Sir, that a separate Bill might be brought for each of such schemes as this. In fact, in England, it is the practice that whenever a certain loan has to be given, or an industrial enterprise has to be financed, or any work has to be executed, a separate Bill is brought forward and passed. I do not mean to suggest that he should undertake such a step here at this juncture. But, if for any reason, the Bill is not to be placed before the House, or has to be delayed in its passage, I submit, Sir, that in order that this project may be executed without delay, a separate Bill may be undertaken and if that is not possible on behalf of Government, I hope that it will not resist any attempt made on the part of private Members to introduce a Bill of their own in order to have the project executed. With these words, I withdraw my Resolution, with the leave of the House."

The Resolution was by leave withdrawn.

COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER WATER-SUPPLY TO THE TOWN OF COIMBATORE.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I beg to move—

3. *That this Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to report on the best way of introducing water-supply to the town of Coimbatore at an early date.*

" This proposition, Sir, is very simple. I am sorry to see that the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government is not here. In his absence, I wish that the hon. the Member in charge of Irrigation at least may hear me."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I assume no responsibility for hearing the speeches relating to subjects with which I have no concern."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I know, Sir, the hon. Member does not assume any such responsibility. But what I meant was that in the course of my speech some remarks might be found to be of use to the hon. the Law Member as concerning him."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I always find the hon. Member's remarks useful."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" And therefore it is, Sir, that I wish that he listens to me. I was going to say, Sir, that Coimbatore is one of the most important towns and yet it has been suffering the most for want of good water-supply. It is a fact admitted on all hands. It is a pitiful sight, Sir, for any one that is in Coimbatore to see ladies belonging to respectable families walking three or four furlongs to get a potful of fresh-water. Attempts are being made from year to year, decade to decade—shall I say century to century?—to get some good water-supply for the town of Coimbatore. If doctors differ according to the proverb, engineers seem to

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differ more so far as the water-supply of Coimbatore is concerned. Scheme after scheme once supposed to be best by one set of engineers is declared to be useless by another set. A scheme which is supposed to cost a few lakhs by one engineer is given up as very costly by another. Now, Sir, the Government have been tantalising us for long. About 15 years ago we were sure of water being brought to our doors and the municipality was asked to levy a tax. The tax was actually levied, and, in some parts of the town, taxes were actually collected for water-supply. But the Government, through their engineers probably, learnt that there was no water-supply available and the taxes collected had to be returned and the notices issued for collection had to be cancelled. The Reformed Council came in, and we were very hopeful when our own Minister took charge of the Local Self-Government Department. And what is more, to satisfy the curiosity of some of our friends, our mouths were actually watering when the hon. the Minister in charge of Local Self-Government came to Coimbatore immediately after he took charge of the portfolio, and at a grand meeting held at the Town Hall, made rather grand promises—I had the honour of translating his speech then—and gave very promising hopes to the townsmen. It was then said that the cost would be about 34 lakhs and the Government were prepared to make a grant of 17 lakhs and only the municipality had to make up their 17 lakhs. Engineers differed and so do mathematicians; and we also differed as to the rate at which the tax should be levied for the water-supply and for the purpose of meeting this loan of 17 lakhs. The hon. Minister promised in all solemnity that the matter would be deeply considered. There are one or two points which we have been urging from decade to decade—for this is the history of decades—that the Government are bound to pay a large sum of money out of these 34 lakhs.

11-45 a.m. “Whatever that may be, out of this water, they are going to supply their Agricultural College, their Forest College, their Police School, and their Central Jail which are anomalously inside the town, but outside the municipal limits. They have all the advantages of the municipality, but only they do not pay the taxes raised by the municipality and they want to have the benefits of this water for which we pay taxes. If we make a calculation of all these things, a large sum of money would have to be deducted out of this 34 lakhs. In the answer that the Government were pleased to give yesterday—that has been given by the hon. the Law Member probably—it is stated that there is a combined scheme of water-supply and irrigation. Therefore this scheme, which is supposed to supply water to Coimbatore, I am glad to know, is supposed to irrigate some of our lands, the nanja lands near the Coimbatore town which are suffering very much. The Government will therefore naturally get additional tax upon those lands for the irrigation facilities which they will obtain. That also has to be taken into consideration and I have no doubt whatever that the hon. the Law Member, who is always interested in hearing me, will, in consultation with the Minister for Local Self-Government, agree to a contribution on that account.

“But the most important point that is referred to in the answer given to-day is this: it is what is called centage allowance. If Government takes up a work or does something for us, they must get a large allowance. We appealed to the hon. Minister in charge of Local Self-Government to take this matter kindly into consideration and arrange that the Government should have no centage at all or at least should have a reduced centage. The hon. Member was pleased to say that the matter would be deeply considered.

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Three years are over and in to-day's answer we are told that the matter is still under consideration. We are dying for want of water, and the hon. Members, the Minister in charge of Local Self-Government and the Minister in charge of the establishment of the Engineering Department, who are sitting together opposite could talk a little and settle the matter. But unfortunately, Sir, we are under the impression—I hope it is not a correct impression—that there is a little difference of opinion between the Ministers. The Education Minister wanted to introduce compulsory education and therefore wanted to levy education cess, and we agreed. Then the Self-Government Minister came in and said 'water should have preference. You had better not have or postpone compulsory education. You must have water first!' We agreed, and we thought . . ."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Does the theory of the united Cabinet no longer hold good, Sir? The hon. Member is now referring to the individual Members of the Cabinet and the personal differences among them."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I said absolutely nothing with regard to their personal differences. I was only referring to their differences as Ministers, and I was stating facts. One Minister was certain of the desirability of compulsory education and the other Minister was equally certain of the desirability of introducing water-supply first. So, we agreed to give up the education cess and levy water-tax first. But this consultation among the various Members, the Law Member, the Ministers for Self-Government and Education has cost us about 8 or 10 lakhs in these three years."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I am not aware of any such consultation, Sir, that cost the hon. Member 8 lakhs."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I beg his pardon if I have in any way wounded his feelings, Sir."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Not at all, Sir. It is not a question of feelings, but it is a question of 8 lakhs."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I said about consultation past or future (laughter). There must necessarily be consultation, because this water-supply scheme is necessarily affecting the irrigation scheme of the town."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I take it that the hon. Member apprehends that if the Members of the Government consult one another, there will be a loss of 8 lakhs (laughter). I do not quite understand his position."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"The loss may be probably more, Sir (laughter). There has been consultation only between the two Ministers, and that has cost us about 8 lakhs. But if there is to be further consultation with the Law Member, it may cost us more. In addition to that it has cost us already a delay of three years, and if there is further consultation it may cost us 30 years delay. Therefore, to prevent the possibility of the cost going up, I want that the matter should be expedited. In 1921, when the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government came to Coimbatore we were told that the cost would be 34 lakhs, but to-day we are told that the present estimate is about 44 lakhs, and we do not know what will be to-morrow's estimate. I was referring to the difference of opinion between the Ministers because it is probable that they have not yet decided which is more important, water-supply or education. Unfortunately water-supply also partly depends on the hon. Education Minister because he is in charge of the

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engineering establishment. Therefore unless the Ministers agree, there will be no end to these troubles. What I want to say is that at any cost we want water. Even the $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent which we were prepared to pay was too high. We are already paying 8 per cent for house-tax. This water-cess will be another $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. We have already agreed to levy an education cess, and there seems no end to these taxes, and probably they will soon rise up to even cent per cent. We want to remove the possibility of our taxes being more than cent per cent. It is only with that object that I appeal to the hon. Members adorning the Treasury Benches to agree to this very modest Resolution of mine that a committee may be appointed to go into the whole question. If possible it would expedite this consultation between the Ministers and Members regarding the relative expediency of water-rate or education rate, and would facilitate some understanding between them being arrived at. Probably the hon. the Finance Member would also have to be consulted to see what contribution he has to pay for the water to be supplied to the various Government buildings mentioned by me which are enjoying the benefits of the municipality and yet are outside the municipal limits. I want that this committee proposed by me should go into all these things. I think all hopes of expecting any speedy water-supply at the hands of the Government are gone, and the only possibility is for a few non-officials and expert officials to form a committee and come to some understanding. We see that Coimbatore which is a very beautiful city, as has been admitted by many people, is being devastated by plague; that is only on account of want of water-supply and drainage. We have been crying for this water for years and years, decades and decades and even for centuries and centuries (hear, hear), and yet we have not been able to get it. So, I appeal to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to agree to this Resolution and have a committee by which all the difficulties which are said to be insurmountable can be considered. All the facts in connexion with this matter are personally known to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government, and I appeal to him to accept this proposition."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, I beg to second the Motion that has just been made. In doing so, I should really thank the hon. the Chief Minister for the answer which he has given to a question this morning with reference to this very matter. He has been pleased to indicate in his answer the difficulties that lie in the way of sanctioning this scheme. He says that the total cost comes to 44.2 lakhs and he expects the Municipality to contribute 22.1 lakhs. That is to say, he expects the Municipality to bear half the expenditure of the scheme. My hon. Friend who made this Motion has explained why this view of things should not be accepted. He has stated that the water scheme is going to help not only the town of Coimbatore but also several isolated places which are territorially within the municipal limits but technically outside them. Such places are the Jail, the Police Training School, the Agricultural College and the Forest College. It has been stated with regard to the Agricultural College and the Forest College that it is only portions of the big estates on which these lie that can be considered to be within the territorial limits of the Municipality, and that the other portions are only contiguous to it. So practically they are within the territorial limits and, but for the Government Orders which have been passed, are municipal area. So, if some allowance is going to be made for the contribution that has to be given for the supply of water to these estates

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which are technically outside the municipal limits and for which the Government are expected to supply water, the share that the municipality will have to bear will be considerably reduced. That is a question which can be settled only by a mixed committee. No doubt, the Government will claim that their share ought to be very low, whereas the municipality will always be prepared to say and maintain that since these estates do not pay even the ordinary municipal taxes, their share for the water scheme ought to be more.

"Secondly, Sir, the question of centage charges has been standing in the way of water-supply and drainage schemes of many other local institutions. I believe that several other institutions are suffering on account of the very heavy centage charges made by the Government. In this case the major portion of the estimates consists of pipes. Piping, if I remember aright, accounts for about 30 lakhs and odd out of the 44 lakhs. And for this piping, all the expenditure the Government will have to incur will be the percentage they will have to pay to the High Commissioner in England for making the purchases. That will probably be 5 per cent or so. After paying that 5 per cent or so to the High Commissioner who makes the purchases in England, the Government wants to make 30 per cent out of this estimate for being a sort of intermediary. That is practically taking away with one hand what they are going to give with the other. If the Government make a contribution of 50 per cent and take away in the name of centage this 30 per cent, all that the Government would be actually contributing will be only 20 per cent and not 50 per cent.

(At this stage the hon. the Deputy President took the Chair.)

"So this is a matter in which a committee will be of use in deciding the actual centage that the Government will have to charge. As I said before, not only the Coimbatore Municipality but a number of other bodies have been in the same position. So if a proper committee is appointed and it decides this question of centage, it will be a guiding principle to be followed in other cases also. So, in these two matters, in actually settling the contribution that will have to be borne by the Government for the supply of water to the Government buildings mentioned by me and for fixing these centage charges, a committee of officials and non-officials will be of use and will also be able to bring the scheme within the range of possibility. Otherwise, probably correspondence will go on and there will be no chance of a solution in the near future.

"Then, Sir, there is a third matter which has to be considered and it is this. If, after considering all these things, the municipality is not able to bear its share of the expenditure, what is to be done? That is a question which has also to be considered. Coimbatore has been waiting for her water-supply for several decades, not even years, and it is high time that something definite is done. If this particular scheme is too costly, and if after considering all the facts it is not found to be feasible, it will be necessary to pitch upon an alternative scheme. There have been several schemes considered already and one of these schemes came very near the sanctioning point. I believe there was a scheme for taking water from the Chitrachavadi channel by pumping, but it had been given up ultimately because objections were raised by wet ayacut holders that the water-supply would not be sufficient for irrigating their lands and also supplying the Coimbatore town, and that they would suffer if water was going to be taken away from the channel for supplying the Coimbatore town.

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“ Now, Sir, a new source of water-supply has been found in the Siruvani.
 12 noon. If the head works are taken on hand and completed and if the water is dropped into the Noyel and taken from the Chitrachavadi channel itself, then I think that all the difficulties felt in the old days will disappear. Sufficient water will be available and the wet ayacut holders, instead of losing, will gain, because the water that will be dropped into the river will be very much more than that supplied to the Coimbatore town. If that is done, the cost of the piping will not have to be incurred. As I have already said, more than three-fourths of the estimates go for the piping. We may have an alternative scheme like that. Of course, there may be other schemes. So, if after considering these two questions, viz., the contributions to be paid by Government for their own institutions and the centage charges, the Committee comes to the conclusion that the scheme is not feasible, it will be up to them to consider the alternative scheme also. As I said, Sir, the matter has been hanging on for several decades, and we are very anxious to come to some definite conclusion in the matter. It seems to me that the proposal that has been put forward by my hon. Colleague from Coimbatore will go a long way towards an earlier solution of this long pending matter. So, I would request the hon. the Chief Minister to consider this point of view also and agree with me.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Mr. President, I need hardly say that I am in full sympathy with the object of the hon. the Mover's resolution. In fact, I have been trying my very best to expedite the execution of the scheme of water-supply to the Coimbatore town. More than one scheme has been examined and at last a scheme has been approved by the Sanitary and Engineering authorities. But there have been various difficulties connected with the execution of this scheme, and naturally, time is required to solve these difficulties. One of those difficulties is connected with the question of centage charges. A great deal has been said about the unfairness of these centage charges. It must be remembered that it is in accordance with the directions from the Government of India that these charges are levied. No doubt there is some force in my hon. Friend Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar's complaint against high centage charges being levied from local bodies. Materials such as girders, etc., are purchased and the levy of centage charges on the purchase of the materials does not appear to me to be reasonable. All the same, Sir, the question of levying lower centage charges is not one which the Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government alone can settle. The question is under consideration by the concerned departments. I propose to have a conference of the parties concerned in the matter to which the representatives of the Coimbatore district in this Council, and other gentlemen interested in the matter, will be invited to give us the benefit of their advice. I may assure this hon. House that I am anxious to have the work taken in hand as early as possible. I am keen about Coimbatore getting water-supply, and if only my Friends will solve some of these difficulties at the proposed conference, I shall feel grateful to them.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Sir, there has been a change in this House which was not visible in the last Council. Every Member in the Cabinet says ‘I am in full sympathy with everything that you want.’ That is a change that we have noticed now. But we want this ‘full sympathy’ to be translated into sympathy, not with the lip, but with action of the hand. These centage charges are really very curious. I am not going

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into that question at all now. Only I am sorry that the hon. the Chief Minister seems to have forgotten that at the time of the so-called conference and public meeting at Coimbatore, he said that he would try his best to reduce the centage charges so far as Coimbatore was concerned."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" May I rise to a point of personal explanation? We are trying if we cannot reduce the centage charge in the case of the Coimbatore water-supply schemes to the minimum extent, and the question is under consideration."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Exactly, Sir. But what I was going to say was that whereas he promised to try to have a reduction in the centage charges so far as Coimbatore was concerned, which should have been done as a special case at an early date, we see from the reply given this morning by the hon. the Minister in reply to a question that the matter of the centage for the whole Presidency is under consideration. That means a lot of correspondence with the Government of India, the Secretary of State and so on and so on."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, it is as a special case the question is being considered."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am very glad to hear that, Sir; only it did not find a place in this morning's reply. But whatever it may be, I yet fail to understand why the hon. Member should, apart from the question of prestige and privilege, object to a committee being formed. We know what a conference is. A conference means that the hon. the Minister must also be present at it. We know that his work is heavy, and he may not be able to devote as much time to this question as we may expect him to do. Moreover, the time at our disposal at the conference may not be quite sufficient. All that I ask for is for the appointment of a committee. The hon. Member may propose any member to the committee, officials, or non-officials, members from this side of the House, or that side, from inside or outside. We have no objection to have a committee specially appointed for this purpose to make a report with or without this consultation, so that we may be given an opportunity of discussing matters at once and come to some definite conclusion. Let us not be fed up with mere hopes. Let us be sure of one thing whether water-supply for Coimbatore is feasible or not. We want this committee only to consider matters and to advance matters. If the hon. Member is really interested in supplying the town of Coimbatore with water as early as possible—in the history of this Council among these Ministers 'early' may mean anything—all that I may say is that if he really desires that 'early' to be really early, then I appeal to him to agree to the appointment of this committee. After all, the recommendations of the committee are only advisory. The hon. Member may even then have the option of calling a conference which seems so much to his heart and then decide one way or the other. So there is absolutely no harm in having a committee. Let the committee consist of all possible experts and people interested in various matters, representing of course Members that may be on his side. So, I would appeal to him once more to reconsider the question and agree to a committee to be appointed by him. I do not generally mention the names of members to the committee that I want; I leave the members to be appointed by him. But I appeal to him again to agree to the committee

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being appointed so that the matter may be decided at an early date. Coimbatore may perhaps be the worst sufferer, but the Coimbatore committee may propose some resolutions which may enable other towns also to get water easily. So I appeal to him once more to appoint the committee. This is one of the earliest objects in his ministerial position in this Council, and let it not be delayed with merely vain hopes."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, I propose to have the conference some time in January. I do not think the constitution of a special committee would serve the purpose any the better. We have to negotiate with the other departments and we have to take the opinion of experts, and all these things would be much better done by having a conference in Madras and by inviting to that conference the representatives and those interested in the question so that we may have the benefit of their advice. I hope that will satisfy my hon. Friend."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I make a further appeal, Sir, to the hon. the Minister that if this conference does not come to any decision, as I am afraid it will not, by January, or February, he will appoint another committee."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It will be quite open to the hon. Member to ask for the appointment of a committee if the conference is not held in January."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" But, if the conference does not come to any conclusion within three months, then will the hon. the Minister appoint a committee? Under the rules I am afraid I cannot move a Resolution again for a year."

The Motion was put and declared lost.

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar demanded a poll which was taken with the following result :—

Ayes.

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| 1. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 23. Rao Bahadur C. Gopala Menon. |
| 2. " T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 24. Mr. C. Marudavanam Pillai. |
| 3. " A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 25. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 4. " C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 26. Mr. G. Rameswara Rao. |
| 5. Mr. P. Siva Rao. | 27. " P. C. Venkatapati Raju. |
| 6. " A. Chindambara Nadar. | 28. " Venkatarama Ayyar alias V. Pantulu Ayyar. |
| 7. " K. Koti Reddi. | 29. " B. Venkataratnam. |
| 8. " J. Kuppuswami. | 30. " Abbas Ali Khan. |
| 9. " P. Anjaneyulu Pantulu. | 31. " Haji Abdulla Sahib. |
| 10. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo. | 32. " G. Abdulla Ghatala Sahib. |
| 11. Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar. | 33. " Abdul Hye Sahib. |
| 12. Dr. P. Subbarayan. | 34. " V. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar. |
| 13. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu. | 35. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib. |
| 14. Mr. P. Peddirazu. | 36. Mr. T. M. Moidoo Sahib. |
| 15. " A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 37. " Muhammd Moosa Sait Sahib. |
| 16. " J. A. Saldanha. | 38. " T. N. Bhava Ravuttar Muhammad Sahib. |
| 17. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 39. Khan Sahib Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razaaq Sahib. |
| 18. " Sami Venkatachala Chettiyar. | 40. Mr. K. Uppi Sahib. |
| 19. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 41. " Janab Muhammad Yahya Ali Sahib. |
| 20. " R. Veerian. | |
| 21. " S. Satyamurti. | |
| 22. " T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. | |

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Noes.

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|---|---|
| 1. The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 24. Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu. |
| 2. „ „ C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 25. Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chettiyar. |
| 3. „ the Raja of Panagal. | 26. Mr. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 4. „ Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 27. „ B. Obalesappa. |
| 5. Mr. R. W. Davies. | 28. „ K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai. |
| 6. „ E. W. Legh. | 29. „ K. Raghuchandra Bellala. |
| 7. „ G. F. Paddison. | 30. „ P. T. Rajan. |
| 8. „ H. Tireman. | 31. „ P. S. Rajappa. |
| 9. „ J. A. Davis. | 32. „ B. Ramachandra Reddi. |
| 10. „ C. Nicholson. | 33. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. |
| 11. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur. | 34. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. |
| 12. Mr. Ari Gowder. | 35. „ J. D. Samuel. |
| 13. „ P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar. | 36. „ K. Sarvarayudu. |
| 14. „ A. V. Bhanoji Rao. | 37. „ R. Srinivasan. |
| 15. „ Devendrudu. | 38. Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. |
| 16. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. | 39. Mr. P. V. S. Sundaramurti. |
| 17. Mr. P. V. Gopalan. | 40. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu. |
| 18. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. | 41. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiyar. |
| 19. Rao Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Nayudu. | 42. Mr. K. Venkatachala Padayachi. |
| 20. The Raja of Kurupam. | 43. Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi. |
| 21. Hony. Lt. Madurai. | 44. Mr. M. Ratnaswami. |
| 22. Mr. T. Mallesappa. | 45. „ W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| 23. „ P. N. Marthandam Pillai. | |

41 hon. Members voted *for* the motion, and 45 *against*.

The Motion was lost.

A COMMITTEE TO IMPROVE THE IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN THE
COIMBATORE DISTRICT.

12-15 p.m. Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ I beg to move,
Sir, with much better hopes this time :

4. *That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee be appointed to report on the best ways and means that can be adopted to improve the irrigation facilities in the Coimbatore district without much cost to the Government.*

“ In this resolution also, I am asking only for the appointment of a committee, and I appeal to the hon. the Law Member to consider that committees might be of some use even to the hon. Members of the Cabinet. Some seem to think that apart from themselves or apart from some people under their guidance in the conference”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ If this preface is intended for me, I at once disclaim all responsibility for the assumption that committees are useless.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ I thank the hon. Member, Sir. I was going to say that there are some members both honourable and otherwise (laughter),—I mean those Members of the Cabinet and those who are not—who seem to think that unless these things are put before a conference at the time of its deliberations, committees and such things are useless. But I am glad that the hon. the Law Member”

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member shall omit all personal insinuations.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ There is absolutely no personal insinuation, Sir. I referred to the opinions of officers which we are

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entitled to criticize, and I appealed to the hon. the Law Member as Law Member. I am glad he has anticipated me, and I am sure he is one of those who attach a good deal of weight to the opinions of the hon. Members of this House and of those persons whom he may appoint as members of committees. I therefore said by way of preface—I hope the hon. the Law Member will agree with me—that some people have not much faith in the appointment of committees.

“We know, Sir, that in the matter of irrigation the poor Coimbatore district is very unfortunate. The district of Coimbatore is one of those districts which has the largest extent of reserved forests. In fact, it is the second in the Presidency in having about 35 per cent of its area covered with reserve forests. The presumption is that reserve forests produce a good deal of rain, and I am not here to contradict that. Yet, unfortunately, in spite of the reserve forests, in spite of the heavy rain, we have got this melancholy state of things in the Coimbatore district, that irrigation facilities are the poorest. Practically, Sir, so far as the wet cultivation is concerned, with the largest forest area in the Presidency, this district has the poorest wet cultivation, and the people of Coimbatore, I think, have got a right to ask for something more than what they actually have now. We have also large numbers of rivers traversing the district, but unfortunately it is one of those cases where wealth is given to those who are already rich after taking it away from those who are poor. Most of the water that falls by way of rain in the Coimbatore district is collected by means of various rivers and enters the Cauvery. I am not jealous of other districts. Certainly this water is supposed to go to the benefit of the Tanjore district, but, what is more, it runs to the benefit of the Bay of Bengal. We know, Sir, that the present Law Member has expressed his sympathy, both of the lip and of the heart, in favour of water-supplies for irrigation purposes. The one great thing in his way seems to be—and I too agree with him—the unfortunate throwing out of the Irrigation Bill. Let us all expect that, as amended, the Irrigation Bill would be soon introduced and be passed very early. But there is no use of passing an Act. We have had the State Aid to Industries Act passed several months ago and still to no purpose; for the Act that is passed to be useful, there must be some schemes ready on hand, so that the Act when it comes into force might be applied. And if there is any district in the Presidency which deserves the early application of the Irrigation Act, it is Coimbatore. I have no doubt that so far as that matter is concerned, the hon. the Law Member will agree with me. Here also the question of engineers differing comes in. Several schemes, Sir, that have been considered to be feasible by one set of engineers are considered to be not feasible by another set of engineers on financial grounds. Coimbatore district is a district which does not want to lay conditions for getting its water. It is not one of those districts which say ‘we have got some water and we are prepared to get more water only under such and such conditions, under such and such percentage of tax, under this condition or that’. Coimbatore has absolutely no water and it will be prepared to take water on any condition. Therefore, if the Irrigation Act is passed, there will be no trouble whatsoever in regard to the levy of a water-rate, and Coimbatore will be prepared to pay the water-rate because water at any cost is wanted. There are a number of irrigation schemes in regard to the Coimbatore district, and in answer to a question put by me, the hon. the Law Member has been pleased to say both yesterday and

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which are technically outside the municipal limits and for which the Government are expected to supply water, the share that the municipality will have to bear will be considerably reduced. That is a question which can be settled only by a mixed committee. No doubt, the Government will claim that their share ought to be very low, whereas the municipality will always be prepared to say and maintain that since these estates do not pay even the ordinary municipal taxes, their share for the water scheme ought to be more.

"Secondly, Sir, the question of centage charges has been standing in the way of water-supply and drainage schemes of many other local institutions. I believe that several other institutions are suffering on account of the very heavy centage charges made by the Government. In this case the major portion of the estimates consists of pipes. Piping, if I remember aright, accounts for about 30 lakhs and odd out of the 44 lakhs. And for this piping, all the expenditure the Government will have to incur will be the percentage they will have to pay to the High Commissioner in England for making the purchases. That will probably be 5 per cent or so. After paying that 5 per cent or so to the High Commissioner who makes the purchases in England, the Government wants to make 30 per cent out of this estimate for being a sort of intermediary. That is practically taking away with one hand what they are going to give with the other. If the Government make a contribution of 50 per cent and take away in the name of centage this 30 per cent, all that the Government would be actually contributing will be only 20 per cent and not 50 per cent.

(At this stage the hon. the Deputy President took the Chair.)

"So this is a matter in which a committee will be of use in deciding the actual centage that the Government will have to charge. As I said before, not only the Coimbatore Municipality but a number of other bodies have been in the same position. So if a proper committee is appointed and it decides this question of centage, it will be a guiding principle to be followed in other cases also. So, in these two matters, in actually settling the contribution that will have to be borne by the Government for the supply of water to the Government buildings mentioned by me and for fixing these centage charges, a committee of officials and non-officials will be of use and will also be able to bring the scheme within the range of possibility. Otherwise, probably correspondence will go on and there will be no chance of a solution in the near future.

"Then, Sir, there is a third matter which has to be considered and it is this. If, after considering all these things, the municipality is not able to bear its share of the expenditure, what is to be done? That is a question which has also to be considered. Coimbatore has been waiting for her water-supply for several decades, not even years, and it is high time that something definite is done. If this particular scheme is too costly, and if after considering all the facts it is not found to be feasible, it will be necessary to pitch upon an alternative scheme. There have been several schemes considered already and one of these schemes came very near the sanctioning point. I believe there was a scheme for taking water from the Chitrachavadi channel by pumping, but it had been given up ultimately because objections were raised by wet ayacut holders that the water-supply would not be sufficient for irrigating their lands and also supplying the Coimbatore town, and that they would suffer if water was going to be taken away from the channel for supplying the Coimbatore town.

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they can be taken up now. In fact, there are a number of smaller schemes which but for this Mettur project can be gone through. There are a number of streams which run to the west and fall into the Arabian Sea. There is the Amaravati reservoir scheme where a big reservoir may be built and can be made use of. There are several such schemes of smaller importance. Some of them have not come to the notice of the experts; some of them have been left out of consideration for financial reasons. Even if the Irrigation Bill becomes an Act, only a very few schemes could be effected which are found by the Government to be very necessary. I am only asking for the appointment of a committee to decide as to which of these schemes may be found feasible to be taken up immediately. Many of the ryots are prepared to pay some hundreds for the initial cost of any such undertaking. All that I ask for is a committee to be appointed to investigate this matter. If there are some schemes that may be taken up as soon as the Irrigation Bill is passed by this House, their consideration may be taken up even now without any more delay. Schemes such as those that will not cost the Government very much may very well be taken up now. The only question to be considered in accepting my suggestion for the appointment of a committee is with regard to the travelling allowance for the members that form the committee. I am sure that no member is going to ask for allowances for travelling in his own district. With regard to the Government Members, they can easily arrange this by holding the meetings when they pay visits to those places. The appointment of a committee may, at the worst, prove useless. It is not going to do any harm. With these few words, I commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I beg to second the motion moved by my Friend, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. Coimbatore is one of those districts which are entirely dependent on the rains. The irrigation facilities that we have got are not much to speak of at this moment. Coimbatore and probably Salem come only next to the Ceded Districts with reference to their dependence on the rains and the precariousness of water-supply in every way. But unfortunately, Sir, as in the case of the Ceded Districts, in Coimbatore and Salem also, very little attention has been paid for increasing the irrigation facilities; probably because we have not got many schemes of a big character which will draw special attention from the Government. At the present moment, several parts of the district have not had enough rain and in other parts there is a very great scarcity both for grain as well as for fodder. The kist season is coming and the money market is very tight and the people are in a very awkward position indeed. Cattle are being sold at the present moment for about a third of the price they were originally purchased for. The position can be met only by increasing the irrigation facilities in the district. There are some isolated schemes of irrigation which have not drawn the attention of the Government. There are again schemes proposed during the last year or the year before last which have been held up on account of the proposals regarding the Mettur project. There is the Bhavani river which can be made more useful. There are several hundred acres which can be brought under wet cultivation with water from its channels. For every such advancement, the Mettur project seems to be the only obstacle. These are all matters which need not be kept over until the Mettur project is disposed of. I know of some cases which came up before the Collector a year or two ago in which the engineers were of opinion that

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water was available for additional wet ayacut; but the Chief Engineer has thought it fit to issue orders that all schemes for utilizing the available water should be postponed. This seems to be an unnecessary order and an order which works much to the detriment of the people. The question whether the increase in the wet ayacut will affect the Mettur project or not could have been gone into and decided without waiting further.

"Then, Sir, the hon. the Law Member just now stated that the new Mettur project was not going to affect the water-supply in the district of Coimbatore. Bhavani is one of the rivers in connexion with which there have been two schemes for the construction of reservoirs. These schemes were once investigated, and I believe one was given up as not feasible and the other is pending, I suppose, further investigation. Here again, Sir, as I submitted, these schemes for improvement of irrigation in the district of Coimbatore are made to depend on the execution of the Mettur project. I do not say that a big scheme like that should be given up or postponed if we are going to add a few hundred acres under wet ayacut by other schemes of a smaller nature. What I would submit is that the investigation necessary might be made now whether a reservoir in Bhavani will seriously affect the Mettur project, and if it will not, we need not wait till the Mettur project is completed. That is what I would urge, Sir.

"It has been said that the Siruvani project can be utilized as an irrigation project also. I am not sure whether investigation has sufficiently advanced so as to make it an irrigation scheme as well. I would very much be obliged for information on the matter from the hon. the Law Member. I believe, Sir,—it was once said, I do not remember officially or non-officially—that only about 1,000 acres can be benefited under the Noyyal by the Siruvani scheme. Probably, in Malabar it may be possible to put up dams and turn the western course of some rivers there eastward into Coimbatore, and I do not know whether investigation has been made as to the possibility of turning some of these in the direction indicated. Without any use to the Malabar district itself, these are flowing towards the west into the Arabian Sea. I know that some at least of the engineers are of opinion that it is possible to turn a few at least of these streams. There are again smaller schemes like improvement of tanks so as to make water available for one or two villages. One such scheme was sanctioned last year—the Ukkaram tank scheme. These can be taken up if the actual cost of the schemes is worked out. As my hon. Colleague from Coimbatore has said, the ryots will be very glad indeed to pay a reasonable rate of wet assessment and also some little inclusion fee, so that these schemes that were probably once thought not feasible could be now investigated, taken up and executed. These are matters which ought to be considered by the Government in detail with the help of an expert committee. I am really sorry that the irrigation division was abolished. I was one of those who thought that a division like that would be of great use. Some agency there ought to be which can take up one after another the schemes and investigate each and find out whether they are feasible or not. So, if we want to make real progress in this matter, it seems to be absolutely necessary that we ought to have an expert agency to go into them in detail and come to a decision.

12-45 p.m. "Probably a committee of experts to look into the upper Bhavani and lower Bhavani schemes will be able to go into the question and finally dispose of the matter. With regard to the smaller schemes, a committee consisting of experts and non-officials will be useful.

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The co-operation of the people will always be necessary. There are two causes for the appointment of a committee, viz., to come to a final decision and forcing the decision upon the Government. It is absolutely necessary that something on the lines suggested by my hon. Colleague should be done, and I hope the Government will accept the spirit of this resolution."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Sir, here again, let me be allowed to make some observations with regard to certain matters which have been stated both by the hon. the Mover of the resolution and the hon. the Secunder which do not strictly appertain to the discussion on hand. A certain number of remarks have been made upon the obstruction caused or assumed to have been caused by the Cauvery-Mettur project in regard to the fruition of the Coimbatore scheme. So far as that is concerned, the obstacle has been more financial than anything else, save in regard to one scheme as to which I shall have to make a few remarks later. As hon. Members of this House are aware, the Cauvery-Mettur scheme is not designed primarily to serve the interests of the Coimbatore district as such. But hon. Members will also bear in mind that by that scheme a portion of the upper tracts of the Tanjore district which is practically uncultivable now will become a regular garden and 275,000 acres or nearly a quarter million acres will come under cultivation by virtue of that scheme. Therefore, if you look at the larger interest of the Presidency and see things in proper perspective, hon. Members of this House will no doubt come to the conclusion that, albeit that one particular district may not directly be benefited, the sum total of the advantage gained is a matter which will outweigh the other consideration. I am sure that I can count upon the hon. the Mover for complete and whole-hearted assent to the proposition that I have put forward."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Fully, Sir; I never said a word against the Mettur scheme at all. I only said that it should not be assumed that Coimbatore expected anything from that scheme."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I expected that and I am glad. Another remark was made by Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar in regard to the comparative neglect of the Ceded Districts and of Coimbatore and Salem. So far as that is concerned, hon. Members of this House know that at present there is under investigation a great project called the Sangameswaram project which if it comes will be the almost largest project in India, if not of the whole world, and which will make the Kurnool and Cuddapah districts a garden. (Hear, hear).

" Let me, with these introductory remarks, turn to the Coimbatore irrigation schemes. So far as they are concerned, there are a number of minor schemes which have been under investigation and in respect of some of which the investigation has been completed. There is, for instance, the Kaniyampalayam anicut which project consists of the construction of an anicut across the Bhavani for irrigation of 400 to 600 acres in Satyamangalam taluk. The land-owners have agreed to pay a special water-rate of Rs. 10 an acre. A big project costing Rs. 97,000 has now been completed. It has therefore to be seen that when and wherever it has been possible to push through and complete a scheme, though it did not relate to favoured districts or favoured persons, Coimbatore has not been ignored. Then there is the Siruvani water-supply and irrigation scheme. The question is by no means at an end. It is not difficult to devise a scheme which will really bring under irrigation to

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the extent of 3,000 acres. There are two alternatives to the scheme. One of the two alternatives is a new anicut and channel in the upper regions of the Noyel which will benefit a single big landholder. That question has received the most careful consideration of the Government and will continue to attract their attention. The question is whether a project which will benefit a single big landholder is preferable to another. The question is one which involves engineering consideration as well as financial and other considerations. The two rival projects are under scrutiny by Mr. Hawkins and I am expecting his report on the subject. I shall place the paper on the table of this House in order that hon. Members of this House may come to their own conclusion. Then, in answer to certain questions of my hon. and indefatigable Friend, the Member for Coimbatore, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, the matter has been made clear that in the Kollegal taluk there were as many as five schemes which are actually under contemplation and investigation. Now, I am mentioning all these circumstances for the purpose of assuring the hon. Members of this House that irrigation schemes in the Coimbatore as well as the other districts receive the careful scrutiny and attention of the Government and they are not ignoring one district at the expense of a richer and more favoured district.

“To come to the subject-matter of the resolution which is simply a request for the appointment of a committee, let me, with your permission, Mr. President, make a few remarks on that. What is this committee to do at the present moment? Members of this House have in their hands a careful and exhaustive report of Mr. Morgan who has gone into the irrigation projects of these districts and come to certain conclusions. I do not say that these are final and cannot be improved. But it gives us something to proceed upon. The committee, if appointed, of officials and non-officials will have to go into these schemes and I have before me at least thirteen schemes on which materials have been gathered.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“Do all the thirteen belong to the Coimbatore district?”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“Yes. Some are large and some are small. We have got the investigation reports in respect of these matters. We have got the materials gathered and figures are ready. Now, it seems to me that it will be a much better plan if the hon. Members representing that district were to put themselves in communication with the Chief Engineer and the Member in charge of the portfolio who I am sure will be ready to place at their disposal all the connected papers in their possession. They can see for themselves whether anything requires further scrutiny. Then the Chief Engineer can be made to consult some people in the locality before coming to any conclusion. Having a general committee like that proposed by the hon. Mover will, in my humble opinion, serve no useful purpose. Perhaps they will go into the materials which have been gathered already, make up their minds and advise the Government. The appointment of a committee of this kind merely with the object of investigation will not only not serve any useful purpose, but, on the other hand, will retard the actual inauguration and speedy completion of works actually ready.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“Sir, I want only to make a few remarks on this motion. I have no idea to make any humorous speech with big and bombastic words. I sympathise with the proposition. I have no faith in appointing

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committees. If we appoint committees, it is something like appointing too many cooks. One will say that salt is too much, another will say chillies are too much, and a third one will say that tamarind is not sufficient. I am afraid that the committee will come to that. If you have a committee as the hon. Member wishes, you will have laymen also nominated there. It will be a mere waste of money, because they will receive travelling allowances and nothing will be done practically. The hon. the Law Member has rightly stated that the financial condition also should be taken into consideration. It is true that expert opinion should be considered. Therefore, I should like to say that the Government may be requested to improve the irrigation facilities either by appointing a special officer, or by asking their staff to do the needful in the matter. Therefore, Sir, without wasting much time in the matter, I have suggested my opinion and I hope the hon. the Law Member will give the consideration that it deserves."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I am glad to say, Sir, that I have had the usual sympathy and a little more of it from the hon. the Law Member."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I had intended to say and I repeat, that it is not the usual sympathy, if by that the hon. Member merely means formal sympathy."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"This is not only usual sympathy ; this is not only formal sympathy, but something more than all that. The hon. Member has not said what will be done if we take his kind advice after consulting the local engineering officers. I have taken all the steps suggested by him. I have written to the Chief Engineer, the Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer. I requested them to put into action the sympathy of the Chief Engineer and it was only a few days ago that the Executive Engineer came to examine four schemes in Kollegal. The Chief Engineer has been pleased to ask him to go into the question."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I can direct
1 p.m. the Chief Engineer to go to Udumalpet, if necessary."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I am very glad, Sir, that the Chief Engineer too will come to Udumalpet. He must go not only to Udumalpet, but also to other places such as Kollegal and Gopichettipalaiyam. The object of appointing the committee is—if I had not already made it clear—to facilitate the work to be done under the Irrigation Act wherever the schemes are already feasible, otherwise than financially. This committee of officials and non-officials—some of them belonging also to the Coimbatore district—will be able to take the advice of the leading ryots in the various taluks and make them agree to pay either a lump sum by way of advance to carry out the projects or an additional cess by way of water-tax or both if necessary. That is my object in asking for the appointment of a committee. Now that the hon. the Law Member has said that the Chief Engineer will go to that district, I have no objection to wait for the formation of the committee till the Chief Engineer visits the district. I am glad that the hon. the Law Member has said that there are some projects still under consideration. I thought from the Blue Book prepared by the Chief Engineer on the irrigation projects in the Presidency till now that some of them had been abandoned ; but now I learn they are still under consideration. Therefore, if the hon. the Law Member is prepared

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to appoint the committee later on, after the visit of the Chief Engineer to the district, for the purpose of carrying out the schemes, I have no objection to withdraw this resolution now."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I would advise my hon. Friend to wait until the Irrigation Bill becomes law. There are provisions in it tending to make matters easy with regard to this particular topic. The question of enabling ryots in a particular locality to combine for the purpose of putting the schemes into effect is a matter specially dealt with in that Bill. Further, it is not necessary for me now to make up my mind one way or the other. I may assure him that if at any time non-official opinion is insistent, I have no objection to appoint local or general committees. But I do not want him to pledge me to any such thing now especially as the Irrigation Bill contains the contemplated machinery to effectuate the objects which my hon. Friend has in his mind."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I never want to bind anybody by pledges, especially the Members of Government. With that assurance of the hon. Member, I beg leave to withdraw my resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUGARCANE FARM IN THE WESTERN TALUKS OF
BELLARY DISTRICT

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I beg to move:—

5. *That this Council recommends to the Government to establish a sugarcane farm in the western taluks of the Bellary district.*

"Sir, in the Hospet taluk which is included in the area I have mentioned in my resolution, there is no less than 7,000 acres of wet land under sugarcane crop every year. I think I may say without fear of contradiction that there are few places, if any, in the Presidency which are better suited than this taluk for the location of a sugarcane factory. I know that for a factory to succeed, there must be a certain amount of co-operation among the ryots concerned. But hon. Members of this House may rest assured that so far as the co-operative movement is concerned, it has advanced very much in the taluk I have referred to. There is a Co-operative Bank which is working very successfully in that taluk. There are also a number of societies working equally well in the entire taluk and I have no doubt that in addition to these societies we will have a number of agricultural co-operative societies also to help us hereafter, in whatever work we undertake. So, then, by the help of these co-operative societies and co-operative banks, the ryots can be persuaded to dispose of their sugarcane by sending it to the sugarcane factory for crushing purposes. At present the ryots are labouring under a great disadvantage in the matter of crushing their sugarcane. There is very little time left between the harvest and the time required for pressing sugarcane and the sowing. The result is that they are unable to bestow the requisite attention in regard to the sowing of sugarcane. If, therefore, there is a sugar crushing factory and if facilities are afforded to the ryots to bring their produce to the factory for crushing purposes, it will be a great boon to the ryots of that area.

"Again, there is much scope for improvement in the yield of the sugarcane in this area. At present the yield is not, I think, even half as much as what it is in the Gōdāvari district and in parts of the South Arcot district.

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The climate is good ; the soil is rich, and again there are the Tungabhadra channels which give a fairly good supply of water for these crops. I know that there are schemes of irrigation under investigation which are for increasing the supply still further. It is rather a disadvantage that the ryots are not able to get out of their lands as much crop as their compeers in the other districts are able to get. The reason for that lies in this fact to my mind : in districts like Gōdāvari, Coimbatore and South Arcot, there are separate sugarcane farms, the officers in charge of which are able to educate the ryots in improved methods of cultivation and things of that sort. If the same thing is done in this taluk also, the ryots stand to gain very much. I know the present officers of the district are doing spasmodic work to help the ryots in this direction. I know that they have introduced a few new varieties of sugarcane having brought them from Coimbatore and other districts. The ryots are also willing to take these new species and put them on their land ; but they are unwilling to go further. They do not want the Agricultural Department to come and interfere with them in the time of harvest for example. They crush the cane all together whatever might be their kind and sort. Again, in the matter of sowing, they do not take care to plant sugarcane of a particular variety in a particular plot of land. The result of all this is, that whatever efforts the agricultural officers here and there may do to help the ryots to improve the seed needed for sugarcane plantation, it is not possible for them to multiply that particular variety in any satisfactory way. I do not think that really we can expect the ryots to carry on all these experiments. After all, these experiments may or may not prove successful. The ryot naturally would rather go by the time-honoured method and get what little he can get without risk than embark on new methods which may end in disaster for him.

“ Again, Sir, there is the question of manure. Leaf manure is out of question now and as regards new manures people do not know which to choose and which to avoid, and I think even the Agricultural Department is not in a position now to give us a correct idea as to the relative advantages of the new manures that are in vogue in the Presidency. If a sugarcane farm is established in this tract, the officers may experiment the different kinds of manures and demonstrate to the people the relative advantages of these new manures and compare them with the old sorts of manure which the ryots are using now though in insufficient quantities.

“ Again, Sir, there are other questions like the drainage, better methods of planting and things of that sort that one may learn from the department. All these can be demonstrated in a Government farm. They can multiply the seed of the most promising variety for distribution to the ryots.

“ My submission to this House, therefore, is that if a sugarcane farm is established in this taluk, there are very many advantages connected with that to ensure its success and the ryots also will be benefited very much, especially in the matter of crushing their sugarcane. So, I commend this Resolution for the acceptance of this House.”

Mr. ABDUL HYE SAHIB :—“ Sir, I second this Resolution. In doing so I wish to say a few words. It is a well-known fact that Bellary has been a very backward district. If a farm like the one suggested by my hon. Friend is started in that district, it will not only add to the revenues of the Government, but will help a great deal towards the advancement of the people.

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BELLARY DISTRICT

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We know that the sugarcane cultivation is one of the important means of livelihood in some of the taluks bordering on the Tungabhadra river. Therefore, if a farm like this is started, it will certainly add to the revenues of the district and it will also improve the condition of the district. Therefore, I dare say that the Resolution will have the support of all the Muhammadan and other Members of this House."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Mr. President, I am in full sympathy with the proposal to establish sugarcane farms wherever they may be considered necessary. But so far as the Hospet taluk and the western taluks of the Bellary district are concerned, I join issue with my hon. Friend as to the need of such an institution in that place. Sugarcane is essentially a tropical plant. One would therefore imagine that in the Madras Presidency the area to be brought under sugarcane cultivation ought to be just the whole area. As a matter of fact, it is very much below what it ought to be; the wonder is that in one of the districts near the Himalayas we find that sugarcane is excessively grown. Therefore, some reason ought to be found why sugarcane has not been cultivated here to that large extent. I have been reading the report issued by the Indian Sugarcane Committee. There I find that the ryots of this Presidency are not as industrious as those in the north, and that if they could exert more, they would be able to cultivate more extensively. I also find in that report that when dealing with the Madras Presidency they do not recommend the establishment of a sugarcane station anywhere in the Bellary district. As regards the circle farm they say that it is not of an urgent nature."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Anyhow they recommend one."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"My hon. Friend tells us that Hospet has got 7,000 acres under sugarcane cultivation. I have looked into the statistics and I find that in the whole of the Bellary district the total extent under cultivation is only 6,220 acres."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Does it include the second crop also?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"It is the area once cropped."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Is it distributed all over the district?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"I suppose he
1-15 p.m. can wait until I have done. If he wants more details, I can give him later on. We are all agreed that sugarcane ought to be cultivated on a very large scale because the soil and the climate are very conducive to its growth. But the real point is that if the ryots were to put more energy in the matter of sugarcane cultivation, we could bring more lands under that cultivation. That they have not done. We have tried various methods to achieve this end. Taking a broad survey of this Presidency, as recommended by the Sugarcane Committee, we have to go in for a large extent of sugarcane cultivation in Samalkot, Anakapalle and elsewhere. For the expansion of the Anakapalle farm we have already committed ourselves to the extent of Rs. 30,000, and money is badly needed, very urgently needed, for the paddy farm that is to be opened in Gōdāvari. Having these

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schemes before me, I cannot easily accept the proposition that a sugarcane farm should be opened in the Bellary district. For the information of my hon. Friend, the Mover of this Resolution, I may say that a special officer has been deputed to go into this question and on receipt of his report, if a case is made out for opening a farm in the Bellary district, it will be considered. As it is, I may tell him that the initial cost of opening a farm is about 2 lakhs of rupees and the recurring cost is Rs. 20,000. If money could be found by the Legislative Council, I should be the first to put the proposal of the hon. the Mover of this Resolution in advance of every other proposal. As things stand at present, I have no hopes of getting more money than what we are now getting. I entirely rely upon my hon. Friend to help me in the matter. For the present, he may be content with my assurance, viz., that the subject will receive my very sympathetic consideration, as I intend to tour in that district very shortly in the beginning of the next month. And if I am satisfied as to the necessity of establishing a sugarcane farm in that district, I shall bring up the matter when dealing with the budget proposals. For the present I must leave the matter in that stage."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" It is rather extraordinary that a statement should proceed from the hon. the Minister for Development that we, the non-official Members of this House, should find money to start sugarcane farms. I believe that it is his business to find the necessary funds. If he cannot find money to carry out his own policies, the non-official Members of this House should not be held responsible at all. He has stated that at Anakapalle the Government are going to open a sugarcane station at a cost of Rs. 30,000. It has nothing to do with the proposition before the House. Anakapalle has already got a sugarcane farm and Government propose to have a breeding station there. There is a breeding station at Coimbatore and it is maintained as an Imperial concern and most of the canes that are grown there are intended more for the Northern India sugarcane factories than for those of the Madras Presidency. Now, one who is acquainted with sugarcane cultivation will realize the necessity of having several varieties of sugarcane, that particular canes are suitable for particular climates and that the yields depend upon the quality of cane that is planted in a particular area. One who is acquainted with the Coimbatore breeding station can very well realize the enormous good that has accrued for the Northern India sugarcane stations. One who is acquainted with sugarcane cultivation will be convinced that a request to the Government to take up a similar concern for breeding good varieties of sugarcane necessary for the various climates of this Presidency is quite reasonable.

"The hon. the Minister for Development has stated that the Sugarcane Committee recommended a sugarcane circle for the Ceded districts. He has also, I think, given sufficient reasons for the establishment of a sugarcane factory at Hospet immediately. He also said that the ryots are not very industrious and that, consequently, the cultivation of the crop is very poor. I may state, Sir, that this is one of the reasons why, I think, my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar has tabled his Resolution.

"One who has experience of the Anakapalle sugar farm can very easily realize the necessity of having varieties of sugarcane cultivated. Formerly the varieties that were cultivated in that farm were very poor, and were all

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diseased. Afterwards new varieties were introduced and they were taken by the ryots. Now we may safely assert that all private plantations are almost free from disease. A similar statement, I think, can safely be made regarding the Godavari farm. As to the methods of cultivation, there has been very great improvement and the ryots have adopted many improved methods. Taking all these reasons into consideration, I think a backward district like Bellary requires a sugarcane station, and the hon. the Minister's argument that the establishment of a sugarcane station would require enormous funds, say about one lakh of rupees, is rather unconvincing. I do not know how the figures have been arrived at. I do not think even the Anantapur sugarcane station, where only some varieties of crops are grown, did cost one lakh of rupees. When the Government have started sugarcane stations, paddy farms, and farms for various other crops in various places, I hope that in the interests of the Ceded districts he will find the necessary money for starting a station there also and not appeal to this House to find the monies for him."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I have only one word to say with regard to the cost. The figures furnished by the hon. the Minister for Development, viz., that one lakh and odd is required for the establishment of this farm, are very large. I do not think we need so much money. Nor need any very large amount of money be spent on brick and mortar. I think, whatever land the Government want, they can get by lease for a specific period. They need not have any superfluous establishment to look after this farm. It is enough, in my opinion, if they have an assistant manager and a clerk on a small pay with the duties of a storekeeper combined in him. I think that with this establishment and with the supervision of the superior officers at the head of the department from time to time, it must be possible for the department to have a sugarcane farm in this area. I think it has been shown beyond any doubt whatsoever that if a farm is established there, the yield now obtained by the ryots can easily be doubled, and I ask, is it not worth while for the Government to spend, probably every year for some time to come 20 or 30 thousand rupees, for the benefit of the ryots and for themselves? So I wish that the hon. the Minister for Development is more precise as to what he proposes to do."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"I get the figure, one lakh, from the report furnished by the Director of Agriculture. This is what he says:

'The cost of opening a station on smallest lines, I hope, would be one lakh of rupees if it is to do any real good. . . .'

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, would think that with a smaller amount a farm could be established. Well, only the experts can give their opinions, and as I have already said, a special officer has already been deputed and, on receipt of his report, I shall consider the matter and deal with it as the circumstances would require.

"As regards the Anakapalle farm, it is not a new farm. It is only an expansion of the old farm that is proposed to be attended to. As regards the cultivation of varieties of crops, I must say that unless you have a large extent of land it will not be possible to cultivate varieties of crops. As to the

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disease to which my hon. Friend, Mr. Narasimha Raju, referred, I may say that this disease is called Red-rot and it became very prevalent in Godavari and Vizagapatam districts some years ago."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"With the sympathetic assurance given by the hon. the Minister for Development, I withdraw the Resolution."

The Resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The House then adjourned for lunch (at 1-30 p.m.) and re-assembled at 2-30 p.m.

POSTPONEMENT OF RESETTLEMENT OF BLACK SOIL TALUKS OF BELLARY
AND ANANTAPUR DISTRICTS.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I beg to move the following resolution :—

6. *That this Council recommends to the Government that in modification of the orders contained in G.O. No. 1332, Revenue, dated 21st July 1922, the wet rates in the case of lands under first-class irrigation sources be enhanced by 5 per cent only with effect from fasli 1333, and that the remaining rates of assessment remain unaltered for the period of resettlement.*

"Sir, before going into the merits of the Resolution, I would just like to recapitulate briefly the circumstances under which this Resolution comes again before the Council this year. Resettlement operations were commenced in my district (Bellary) practically in the beginning of 1919 and continued up to 1920. A scheme was published by the special settlement officer wherein he proposed the enhancement of the land assessment of all lands under first-class irrigation sources by 25 per cent and of all wet lands of other sources by $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. With regard to dry lands he made a distinction between black soil and wet soil. As regards black soil lands, he proposed an increase of assessment by $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent and of the other soil by $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. He had exempted from his report lands bearing the lowest assessment, viz., those bearing 4 annas assessment and under. After this report was published, the ryots of the four taluks of the Bellary district and two of the Anantapur district who were affected by the proposal of this settlement officer petitioned to the Government that these rates should not be given effect to and that they should be heard. In compliance with their request the hon. the Revenue Member, whose presence I miss to-day, was good enough to go over to Adoni and hear the ryots who waited in deputation on him. The hon. the Deputy President was one of those who headed the deputation along with some others and I, by their courtesy, happened to be their spokesman. I tried to show to the hon. the Revenue Member how any enhancement of assessment in those areas was untenable. Subsequently, in February, i.e., a month after the deputation waited on the hon. the Revenue Member, I tabled a Resolution in this House to the same effect. Then, the hon. the Revenue Member said that he had not time to go into the question fully, that the reports from his subordinate officers were just then in his hands and that he was not then in a position to come to any conclusion on the points raised by me. However, he was good enough to promise, if

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I remember rightly, that he was not going to increase the rates of assessment either in that fasli or even in the next fasli and that within that time he would consider my representations as far favourably as he could. With that assurance, I withdrew my Resolution. Two years passed by and then the Government were again trying to impose these additional rates. Then myself and my hon. Friend Mr. Siva Rao, each tabled a Resolution in this House to the effect that the proposed enhancement should not be carried out. By ballot, my hon. Colleague's Resolution came first and it was discussed in the Council. The wording of that Resolution was

'that these enhanced rates should not be given effect to.'

"The period for which these enhancements should not be given effect to was not specified and that was made one of the reasons by the hon. the Revenue Member to reject the Resolution. The discussion continued in a very sympathetic spirit, and I gratefully acknowledge the sympathy expressed by almost every hon. Member of the House then, many of whom I am glad to see, have been returned to this House. My hon. Friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, said that perhaps it might be as well that we considered the matter a little more closely before we accepted the proposition then before the House *in toto*. He suggested as a *via media* that for one year these rates need not be brought into operation and that in the meanwhile some conclusion might be arrived at. Between the time we last met under the old regime and now, the Government have issued an order definitely telling us what rates should be increased and what not. Practically they confirm the proposals made by the special settlement officer with only one single exception which, in fact, does not amount to much at all. They exempt from the enhanced rates a low assessed class of land, viz., land bearing six annas assessment."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I ask to what Government Order the hon. Member has referred?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I am referring to the Government Order mentioned in my Resolution, viz., G.O. No. 1332, Revenue, dated 21st July 1922."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I may perhaps simplify discussion if I state that that order was not passed after the debate referred to by the hon. Mover."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I beg the hon. Member's pardon. I mean that the Government were initiating measures to bring the enhanced rates into operation without giving the Council the opportunity it wanted to pronounce an opinion on it. It may be within the knowledge of the hon. the Home Member, who is now in charge of settlement, that immediately after the rejection of the Resolution of the hon. Member, Mr. Siva Rao, I tabled another Resolution rectifying the defects noticed by the hon. the Revenue Member, wherein I mentioned that these rates should not be given effect to for a specified period of 30 years. That Resolution was admitted by the hon. the President and it was to come up for discussion before this Council, but in the meanwhile, the Government had issued orders to their subordinates in the district to prepare the *adangals* and other books so as to give effect to the proposals I have referred to above. That, I think, was hardly fair to the declared wishes of this House."

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schemes before me, I cannot easily accept the proposition that a sugarcane farm should be opened in the Bellary district. For the information of my hon. Friend, the Mover of this Resolution, I may say that a special officer has been deputed to go into this question and on receipt of his report, if a case is made out for opening a farm in the Bellary district, it will be considered. As it is, I may tell him that the initial cost of opening a farm is about 2 lakhs of rupees and the recurring cost is Rs. 20,000. If money could be found by the Legislative Council, I should be the first to put the proposal of the hon. the Mover of this Resolution in advance of every other proposal. As things stand at present, I have no hopes of getting more money than what we are now getting. I entirely rely upon my hon. Friend to help me in the matter. For the present, he may be content with my assurance, viz., that the subject will receive my very sympathetic consideration, as I intend to tour in that district very shortly in the beginning of the next month. And if I am satisfied as to the necessity of establishing a sugarcane farm in that district, I shall bring up the matter when dealing with the budget proposals. For the present I must leave the matter in that stage."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" It is rather extraordinary that a statement should proceed from the hon. the Minister for Development that we, the non-official Members of this House, should find money to start sugarcane farms. I believe that it is his business to find the necessary funds. If he cannot find money to carry out his own policies, the non-official Members of this House should not be held responsible at all. He has stated that at Anakapalle the Government are going to open a sugarcane station at a cost of Rs. 30,000. It has nothing to do with the proposition before the House. Anakapalle has already got a sugarcane farm and Government propose to have a breeding station there. There is a breeding station at Coimbatore and it is maintained as an Imperial concern and most of the canes that are grown there are intended more for the Northern India sugarcane factories than for those of the Madras Presidency. Now, one who is acquainted with sugarcane cultivation will realize the necessity of having several varieties of sugarcane, that particular canes are suitable for particular climates and that the yields depend upon the quality of cane that is planted in a particular area. One who is acquainted with the Coimbatore breeding station can very well realize the enormous good that has accrued for the Northern India sugarcane stations. One who is acquainted with sugarcane cultivation will be convinced that a request to the Government to take up a similar concern for breeding good varieties of sugarcane necessary for the various climates of this Presidency is quite reasonable.

"The hon. the Minister for Development has stated that the Sugarcane Committee recommended a sugarcane circle for the Ceded districts. He has also, I think, given sufficient reasons for the establishment of a sugarcane factory at Hospet immediately. He also said that the ryots are not very industrious and that, consequently, the cultivation of the crop is very poor. I may state, Sir, that this is one of the reasons why, I think, my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar has tabled his Resolution.

"One who has experience of the Anakapalle sugar farm can very easily realize the necessity of having varieties of sugarcane cultivated. Formerly the varieties that were cultivated in that farm were very poor, and were all

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V

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I have to inform the House that the following six gentlemen were nominated for election to the Select Committee to consider the amendments to Standing Orders 46 (1), 46 (2) and 49 (3) :—

Mr. K. Sitarama Reddiyar.	Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimha-
Khan Bahadur Haji Abd-ul-lah Haji	charlu.
Qasim Sahib Bahadur.	Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
Rao Bahadur P. C. Etirajulu Nayudu.	Mr. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar.

“ As the number of candidates nominated for election is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, six, I hereby declare the above-mentioned gentlemen to be duly elected under Regulation II (4) of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote.

“ I have already informed the House that the Raja of Ramnad has been nominated as a Member of the Committee by me.”

VI

THE TUTICORIN PORT TRUST BILL, 1923.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I have to announce that I have appointed the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter, K.C.S.I., to be the Chairman of the Select Committee on the Tuticorin Port Trust Bill, 1923.”

VII

THE MADRAS STAGE CARRIAGES AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1923.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I have to announce that I have appointed the hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, C.I.E., to be the Chairman of the Select Committee on the Madras Stage Carriages and Hackney Carriage (Amendment) Bill, 1923.”

VIII

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ With reference to the motion passed at the meeting of the Council held on the 29th November 1923 in regard to the election of the Members of the Public Accounts Committee, I have to inform the House that with reference to Regulation II of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 2 p.m. to-day as the time by which nominations of candidates should be sent to the Secretary.”

IX

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ With reference to the motion passed at the meeting of the Council held on the 29th November 1923 in regard to the election of the Members to the House Committee, I have to inform the House that with reference to Regulation II of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 2 p.m. to-day as the time by which nominations of candidates should be sent to the Secretary.”

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the ryot gets more for the net produce of his land. Why should he not then pay a part of that to the Government as its due? That theoretically may be acceptable. But in actual application you will find that it is conformed to.

“There are certain well-known rules laid down for the guidance of settlement officers. No doubt the revision of assessment is said to be generally based upon the increase or decrease in the recorded prices of the staple grains of the tract. In our district paddy and cholam happen to be the staple products. They calculate the value of the produce of these lands in a particular way. Suppose a land gives a yield of a hundred measures of cholam. They have to estimate the value of the product from that land. For that they need a price. If cholam is selling at ten measures a rupee, then the value of the outturn will be only ten rupees and from that they have to deduct a certain amount for the merchant's profits, for cartage, for the vicissitudes of season, for unprofitable areas included in the land and cultivation expenses. After all these deductions are made, they divide the net balance into two parts and one part, that is one-half, represents the maximum amount to which the Government can lay claim. That is to say, if Rs. 10 represent the value of the outturn of a particular acre of land and Rs. 8 represent the sum total of all the deductions referred to above, you are left with two rupees and from that Government is entitled to claim not more than one rupee. If, on the other hand, they adopt the price of a famine year in which cholam was selling at five measures a rupee, they get as the value of the produce not ten rupees, but twenty rupees. And out of this twenty rupees if you deduct ten rupees for expenses, etc., you will be left with a net balance of ten rupees. Then the Government can claim up to a maximum of five rupees and not one rupee as before. That is the principle underlying the assessment. So, in order to fix the price, the Government have laid down the principle of striking an average for twenty non-famine years preceding the resettlement. Mark the words ‘non-famine’. They should be normal years. They should not be abnormal years in which the prices were exceptionally high for one reason or other. I respectfully submit that until they came to this unfortunate district they were more or less closely adhering to that principle. Take district after district. At Kurnool, Cuddapah, Chittoor and some taluks in Anantapur district they took the trouble of excluding for the purposes of striking the average price not merely the years in which there was actual famine, but also years in which officially there was no famine, but the prices were exceptionally high. Now I claim that the same thing should be done to the district of Bellary. I can give you the years in which the prices ruled high and were excluded in settling other districts and I claim that the same thing should be done in regard to my district as well. If you conform to that method you will find that the prices adopted by the Government for calculating the outturn are unduly high. They take the commutation price of Rs. 258 and if the principles they were professing hitherto are adopted now, they would not get such a high price, but it would be Rs. 225 or so. That means a reduction of about Rs. 30.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“Do I understand the hon. Member to say that he agrees to the commutation price of Rs. 225?”

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Out of that amount you will have to deduct the merchant's profit and things like that. In that case the commutation price will not show an increase of 62 and 53 per cent over the prices you took at the time of the last settlement. According to my calculation the percentage would not come to so much. Assuming, Sir, that the commutation prices calculated according to my proposition show an increase of 20 per cent over the previous prices, I say even then that could be no argument at all for enhancing the assessment. Why, you may ask? Again I refer to the principles enunciated by the Government. I submit, that supposing the present commutation price shows an increase of 20 per cent over the price at the time of the last settlement, you may argue that you are entitled to raise the assessment by 20 per cent. I say emphatically, ‘ No ’ in view of the principle you have hitherto accepted and acted upon. What are the instructions issued to settlement officers? They should not raise the rates to the full measure of the rise in prices because allowances made for increased cost of living, of labour, of stock and of implements, as well as for promoting a higher standard of comfort, should be liberal. That, I take it, was the reason why Government in their generosity did not increase the assessment by 58 per cent, but were satisfied with an increase of $18\frac{3}{4}$ or $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. They were good enough in their generosity to leave their claim for the difference between 58 per cent and $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to provide for merchant's profit, for increasing the standard of living and other factors. If the assessment shows an increase of twenty per cent, there would be nothing left after allowing for merchant's profit, for increased comforts and for increased cost of living, etc., to justify the Government's enhancing the rate by any per cent whatsoever.

“ Again, Sir, there is one point which I would mention before I resume my seat. The Government assumes that the lands are yielding the same quantity of corn as they were supposed to yield at the time of the last settlement. I submit, Sir, in all seriousness and with a due sense of responsibility, that this is not the case.

“ I would only appeal to the Government to refer to the records of the crop experiments of their staff—of the revenue officials and
3 p.m. of the officers of the Agricultural department who were supposed to carry on the experiments more carefully than the revenue officials, and also to the various reports submitted by the Collector of the district, every year and every ten years and to see whether it is so or not. I have taken the trouble of collecting, as far as I could, figures showing the average outturns of these lands during the period between the last settlement and now. And I find that the return has never been so much as it is taken to be by the Government for settlement purposes. In fasli 1319, eight experiments were conducted with regard to the outturn and in four cases, the outturn showed an increase of 3, 6, 7 and 20 per cent respectively.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“ The increase of what? ”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ The increase of the outturn of cholam as compared with the estimated outturn at the old settlement. I must say here that I am referring to experiments on soils of eight annas and above, which are affected by the resettlement proposals. In the other four cases, Sir, there was a deficiency of 27, 33, 40 and 75 per cent. In the fasli 1320,

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there were ten experiments ; in one the outturn was equal and in the remaining nine cases it was less by 20 to 70 per cent or on an average, by 44 per cent. In the fasli 1321, eight experiments were conducted and the outturn was less by 7 to 95 per cent. In 1322 again, I was able to get only a record relating to one experiment and it showed 32 per cent less. In 1323, there were five out of which I find one showing an excess of 5 per cent, while the others show a deficiency of 58, 66, 55 and 57 per cent respectively."

Mr. E. W. LEGH :—" May I ask the hon. Member what figures he is quoting ? The experiments are conducted on estimates. Generally speaking the crop is estimated at so many annas before the experiment and it is only after that that the crop is cut. The officers conducting the experiments proceed on the basis of the estimates and I expect the hon. Member would give us the estimate figures."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I am very glad that the hon. the Revenue Secretary wants more information on this point. Not that he wants the information, but that he wants it for others who may require it. The hon. Member knows well how these experiments are conducted. The officials select typical plots of land for conducting them. Ten cents of it are marked and when the time comes for harvest, a responsible official goes and has the harvest conducted in his presence and gets the grain collected measured and the quantity of grain so obtained from each plot is recorded in the crop experiment report. These reports are sent through the respective Divisional Officers to the Collector and I dare say the hon. the Revenue Secretary knows all these. I have taken the number of measures appearing in the old settlement report belonging to soils bearing particular assessment and class and so on and comparing them with the actual outturn on similar soils according to the crop-experiment reports, I find that these outturns are less in the way I have indicated."

Mr. E. W. LEGH :—" I have not got the information I wanted, Sir. The hon. Member has given figures after the crop-cutting experiments but has not given the anna estimate of these particular crops before the experiments."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I really do not understand the point of the hon. the Secretary. I submit that the land bearing a particular assessment has been marked in the last settlement report as expected to give a certain number of measures. I find that land of a similar sort bearing the same assessment gives a less quantity of grain now. I do not understand how it is in any way difficult to arrive at the actual excess or deficiency with reference to the estimated outturn. The experiments were first conducted by the Revenue department. Afterwards, as I said, the Agricultural department was entrusted with this task of finding out the average outturn of the various crops and I find that whatever the agency be, the result is equally unsatisfactory to the Government. If my figures are challenged, I am quite prepared to go further into this matter. The yield has become less ; the cost of cultivation, I beg to say, has increased more than the increase in the prices may lead you to think. Comparing the original price of cholam with the present prices, you may say that the cost of cultivation has during the last 30 years increased only by 58 per cent. But that is not so. The cost of cultivation has increased to an extent which is more than that by which the

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food-stuffs have increased in value. So that on the one hand you have a diminished outturn, and, on the other hand, you have an increase in the cost of cultivation. Therefore, Sir, I say that there is no justification whatsoever for the enhanced assessment. I have made an exception in the case of wet lands under first-class irrigation sources for obvious reasons because they are not subject to the same disadvantages as dry lands or other wet lands under precarious sources.

"There is only one point I wish to refer to before I conclude. The Settlement Officer has made a distinction between black-cotton soil and red soil. For the black soil lands he has proposed an enhancement by $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent and for the red soil, by $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. He has not given any reason in the Resettlement Report for which he is responsible, but I find his successor has tried to find an explanation for it in another report. He says:

'The case of the black soil is however different. Heavy rain is required to prepare it for cultivation. When once the sowing is over much rain is not required to sustain the crop as the soil is retentive of moisture and the crop during the later stages is matured by the light showers or heavy dew which usually falls after the north-east monsoon.'

"It is just because of this difference in the soils that they were classified differently at the outset. Black soils come under the higher classes and the other soils come under lower classes. The comparative merits of the two classes of soils were taken into account at the original classification itself and the black soil bears a higher rate of assessment by virtue of this fact. Having already done that, to impose an additional burden now seems to me to be highly unfair. The district of Bellary is not the only district where you have black and red soils. In the resettlement of no other district have the Government made this distinction. Even in Bellary district where there are other taluks pending resettlement, the Settlement Officer, in his report relating to those other taluks, has not made this distinction. Because the distinction is untenable, he has treated both black and red cotton soils alike. In fact, I am afraid that in Bellary district black-cotton soil suffers sometimes even more seriously than the red soil. Here is what is said by one Collector and by the Settlement Officer:

'The cultivation of the black-cotton soil depends entirely on the rains that fall from August to November; if these are deficient, the land is left waste. This is why black soils suffer most in times of prolonged and severe drought.'

"That is the story of the black-cotton soils which the Government are trying to make out to be so superior to the red soils as to deserve to be doubly and trebly penalized.

"I believe, Sir, I have said enough to convince the House that the proposed enhancement is unjustifiable. When this subject was discussed last year, I said we were on the eve of a famine, a year has passed by and I am very sorry to say that we are again on the brink of a famine, and the Collector has, I think, already sent his proposals for starting test works. I appeal to the hon. Members of this House on whichever side they may be to look at this point from a broad point of view, without minding me as the individual who has brought forward this Resolution and realize the difficulties of the ryots who are standing behind and who will be seriously affected by the resettlement proposals if given effect to and wholeheartedly support my proposition. I appeal to them for justice and nothing more."

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Mr. ABDUL HYE SAHIB :—" I rise to second the Motion. The hon. Mover has explained that just at this time when we are expecting some concession in the matter of assessment, at the time when we are dying out of famine, when we have not got even enough water to drink in Bellary, the Government have thought it fit to increase the assessment. It looks to me something like Nero's fiddling while Rome was burning. I have got the full support to the Proposition from all my hon. Friends of the Muhammadan party and, with these words, I strongly support the Motion."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" I rise to move my Amendent, Sir."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" May I ask, Sir, if the hon. Member has given sufficient notice of the Amendment which he now proposes to move? If notice was given late, I object under Standing Order 60."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Do I understand that the hon. Member, Mr. Siva Rao, admits that he gave notice of the Amendment too late?"

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" I gave notice yesterday, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has not given two clear days' notice."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Sir, with the leave of the House and with the permission of the hon. the President I can move the Amendment."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member can move the Amendment if the President suspends the Standing Order."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" I request the hon. the President to suspend the Standing Order."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I hereby suspend the operation of Standing Order 60 (1) so far as notice is concerned."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have the honour to move the following Amendment :—

'For all the words beginning with "in modification of the orders" substitute "the G.O. No. 1332, Revenue, dated 21st July 1922, may not be enforced until the principles of land revenue settlement are codified and placed on a legislative basis."'

"The Motion as amended will read :

'That this Council recommends to the Government that the G.O. No. 1332, Revenue, dated 21st July 1922, may not be enforced until the principles of land revenue settlement are codified and placed on a legislative basis.'

"Sir, if I am fortunate enough to carry this Motion through this House, we need not discuss the original Proposition on its merits. We need not discuss the reasonableness or otherwise of the rates proposed or sanctioned in G.O. No. 1332. Having said so much, I may say that for a very long time past, people of our Presidency have had no voice whatever in shaping our revenue policy. Taxation, Sir, all this time has been levied in the guise of land revenue assessment without reference to the wishes of the people, by executive action without consulting the Legislative Councils of the provinces. This disclosed a very unsatisfactory state of things. The matter was agitated

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from time to time and the attention of the Decentralization Commission was forcibly drawn to this question as early as 1909 and they came to this conclusion. After an elaborate inquiry they said :

' We consider that the general principles of assessment, such for instance as the principle of net profits from the land which the Government shall be entitled to take and the period of settlement should be embodied in provincial legislation instead of being left to executive order as is now the case outside Bombay '

" Now, Sir, I see no action whatever has been taken so far as this Presidency is concerned in respect of that strong recommendation of the Decentralization Commission. The matter again came up in 1919 to 1920 before the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament, and, after a long inquiry and on hearing evidences, they came to the following conclusion :

3-15 p.m. ' The Committee are impressed by the objections raised by many witnesses to the manner in which certain classes of taxation can be levied upon the people of India by executive action without in some cases any statutory limitation and in other cases without adequate description by statute of the method of assessment.'

" And further on they said that the imposition of new burdens should be gradually brought under the purview of the Legislature, and, without expressing any judgment on the question whether land revenue is a tax or rent, they advised, and strongly advised too, that the process of revising land revenue assessment ought to be brought under compulsory regulation by statute. And then they say that

' no branch of the administration is regulated with greater elaboration and care but the people who are affected by it have no voice in it. . . . the rules are often obscure and are but imperfectly understood by those who pay the revenue. . . . The Committee are of opinion that the time has come to embody into law the main principles by which the land revenue is determined, the methods of revision, the pitch of assessment, the periods of revision, the gradation of enhancements and other processes that touch on the well-being of the people.'

" These are the very clear recommendations, and in accordance with these recommendations I had the privilege to move in this House, as early as January 1921, that the principles of land revenue settlement should be codified and placed on a legislative basis. That Resolution of mine, after a full-dress debate in the Reformed Council, was passed by an overwhelming majority. I remember very well that we took a day or two over the discussion of this question, and, excepting the official members, all others voted in support of that Resolution. And then the Government were graciously pleased to accept or act upon the principle of that Resolution. They appointed a committee of leading officials and non-officials to consider the best lines on which legislation should proceed, and I had the honour of serving on that Committee. It met for several days at Ootacamund and passed several resolutions. I do not think I would be out of order if I disclose to the hon. Members of this House one of the important resolutions we passed after a lengthy discussion in that Committee. It was that hereafter all resettlement proposals should receive the positive sanction of the Legislative Council."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" May I ask, Sir, whether the papers he is quoting from are published papers, or whether the hon. Member is prepared to publish them ? "

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" I think, Sir, the Report of that Committee was placed on the Editors' Table and we all received copies thereof."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" My information is that it was not."

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The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"What is the recommendation which the hon. Member is reading from?"

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"The recommendation is that hereafter all the resettlement proposals that may be made by the Government should be placed before the Legislative Council for their affirmative sanction. That recommendation is contained in the Report of the Land Revenue Resettlement Committee which met at Ootacamund."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not quite understand the point of order raised by the hon. Mr. Knapp."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I just explain, Sir? I understood from the remarks of my hon. Friend, Mr. Siva Rao, that he was referring to the Proceedings of the Land Revenue Resettlement Committee, and I wanted to know from him whether they were published papers, or whether he was prepared to publish them. I think I am entitled to raise that question when he is quoting from papers not before the House."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Is it an official document?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I do not know, Sir. He is quoting from some documents, and I wanted to know if it was a published document, or if he is prepared to publish it."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member is aware that the obligation not to quote from document which a Member is not prepared to publish, lies only on the Members of the Government. It does not apply to private Members. Does it?"

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"To the best of my recollection it does not apply to private Members."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I believe, Sir, that it applies to any Member of the House."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The idea is that the Government when it acts in the general interest, is in a position to quote. But a private Member may even quote from private letters written to him without publishing the names. But, of course, the fact that he is not able to publish his authority is a matter which hon. Members may take into consideration in weighing the importance of what is stated. But I think the hon. Member is theoretically entitled to quote from all sorts of documents which nobody knows anything of. I hope he will not take advantage of this ruling and go on quoting from irrelevant documents."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"I am quoting from the Proceedings of the Land Revenue Resettlement Committee, and one of the most important Resolutions passed by that Committee was that hereafter all resettlement proposals or proposals for increase or enhancement of land revenue should be placed for the positive sanction of the Legislative Council. Another important Resolution was that hereafter there should not be any larger increase than 12½ per cent at a time. All these important resolutions were passed and were embodied in a draft Bill, and to the best of my recollection the Bill also was ready for being introduced into the Legislative Council. Just then this House was pleased to pass a Resolution in favour of permanent settlement, and, as that question cropped up, the original question of codifying the

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principles of land revenue settlement was held up for the time being, and both the matters were referred to the Secretary of State for India, as I understood from the replies given to my interpellations. Then, Sir, I understand that the proposal of this House in favour of permanent settlement has been turned down by the authorities. That is my information, Sir, but I am open to correction. This Bill never saw the light of day. They never tried to introduce it into the Legislative Council, though they acted on it in the first instance and gave a distinct pledge to this House that they accepted the principle of that Resolution which was moved by me in the Legislative Council. They undertook to introduce a Bill embodying the principles of land revenue assessment. Now, Sir, over two years have elapsed without any action whatever being taken on this matter by the Government. And now all of a sudden they want to introduce these rates, not merely in Anantapur and Bellary, but in several other districts also. I would respectfully ask hon. Members of this House what has become of the Resolution passed by an overwhelming majority? Should we not request the Government to pay due respect to a resolution which they undertook to carry out? It requires a very strong explanation on their part as to why the question of the codification of the principles of land revenue assessment has been shelved. It may be said on the other side, 'We cannot say when that legislation can be undertaken or finished. It may take months or years'. It may take a few months, Sir, and I do not think any more time is necessary. The whole matter is ready, and the Bill has been drafted. What is required to be done by the Government is to announce the introduction of the proposed Bill in the Legislative Council. But it is no concern of mine whether it takes years or months. So far as we are concerned, we are determined and resolved not to entertain any proposals of resettlement till we have got those principles codified. We do not recede from that position and ask Government to give effect to our former Resolution. And until they do so, we cannot possibly sanction these proposals which have been approved only by the Executive Government. Now, if the principles are embodied in a Bill, it will affect this particular Government Order and this particular question in more than one way. For instance, if the recommendation be that there should not be any increase over 12½ per cent at a time, that is bound to affect the Government Order in question. When the principles are once codified, we should apply them to this particular question and then see whether those principles are adopted or not. Without taking up any more time of the Council, I would commend this Motion for the acceptance of the House for the main reason that we shall be stultifying ourselves and paying scant courtesy to a Resolution passed by ourselves at the very first meeting of the Reformed Council by an overwhelming majority if we allow the Executive Government to introduce these rates which have not been approved of by the Legislative Council."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"Sir, I beg to second this Amendment."

Mr. E. W. LEGH:—"Mr. President, Sir, I request you to give a ruling as to whether the Resolution that was originally moved or the Amendment that has just been moved is now before the House. Last evening, after the meeting of this Council, I was sitting in my room working, and at about

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six o'clock or half past six, was put into my hand a notice of this Amendment. Now, Sir, there has not been time either to consult the hon. Member in charge of this portfolio, nor has there been time for him to consult his Colleagues on this Amendment which, Sir, I should like to point out, is entirely different from the original Motion. It is, I can say, almost a negative of the original Motion, and therefore I am not prepared to speak on the Amendment. I should like to know, Sir, whether I am entitled to give a reply to the original Motion which was moved by Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The Amendment having been moved but not having been adopted by the House, the discussion now will have to proceed on the Amendment, and then, if it is adopted by the House, the amended Resolution will hold the field. If it is thrown out, then of course we go on the original Motion. If the hon. Member finds that he is not prepared to go on with the debate, I believe there are other provisions in the Standing Orders open to him by means of which he can procure an adjournment of the particular Motion to another day."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I understand, Sir, that at present we are discussing the question whether Mr. Siva Rao's Amendment should be substituted for the original Resolution. He said that if we discuss the Amendment there will be no need to discuss the original Resolution. In other words, his Amendment is contradictory to the original Motion, or is a negative of it."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"If it is merely a negative of the original Motion, I would not have admitted it. But I quite agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Knapp, that if this Amendment is carried, it may be needless to consider the original Resolution in its original form. That is why I have allowed this Amendment to be taken up first, although it is third in the list."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"In regard to this particular matter of the Amendment, Sir, the hon. the Revenue Secretary has already explained that the notice that we have received has been very short indeed. However, there is no reason on that ground why we should now ask for an adjournment. There is no doubt there may be other hon. Members of this House who wish to support the hon. Mover of the Amendment, and if they are going to do so, I should be content that the question of this Amendment be put to the sense of the House. If the House decides on division to advise Government to stop this resettlement pending legislation, I am prepared to ask for an adjournment. But if they do not do so, I am prepared to meet the original Mover on his Resolution."

The Amendment of Mr. P. Siva Rao was then put to the House and carried.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The Motion now before the House is:—

That this Council recommends to the Government that the G.O. No. 1332, Revenue, dated 21st July 1922, may not be enforced until the principles of land revenue settlement are codified and placed on a legislative basis.

"That is the amended Motion and those who wish to speak on that may do so."

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I ask, Sir, what becomes of the other two Amendments which we expected would come in later?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The answer to that will be given after this Motion is disposed of. We have got the amended Motion now before the House."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I only ask for information, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"For the information of the hon. Member I may tell him that if he reads the amendments of Mr. Sitarama Reddi and Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar, he will see that they are entirely out of place with this Motion before the House. For instance, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar says:

'Omit the words beginning with wet rates'.

"In the amended Motion, we don't have the words 'wet rates' at all. Similarly, Mr. Sitarama Reddi says:

'In line 4 for the figure "5".'

but, as a matter of fact, the line 4 has disappeared in the amended Motion. So that the other two amendment Motions have completely fallen out."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"That being so, Sir, I should like, if I may, to ask you that further debate on the amended Motion may be adjourned to some other day on the ground of short notice. We have had in fact no notice."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"To what date does the hon. Member want it to be adjourned?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I do not know for how many days the House is going to sit, Sir. Perhaps, the day after to-morrow may suit."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think the hon. Member had better formally move it."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I beg to move, Sir, that the further discussion of this Motion be adjourned to Thursday morning."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I second it."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The Motion before the House is that further consideration of this Motion of Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, as amended by Mr. Siva Rao, be adjourned to Thursday morning."

The Motion was put and carried.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I shall have it put in the Agenda on Thursday morning."

APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AS PRINCIPAL
OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The Resolution which I now move, Sir, runs as follows:—

6. *That this Council recommends to the Government that one of the Deputy Directors of Agriculture who is a graduate in Agriculture and possesses the necessary district experience be appointed as the Principal of the Agricultural College at Coimbatore.*

"Sir, the office of the Principal has hitherto been held by one who has had large district experience and who had been connected with the agricultural

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operations in the province. The present Principal is a research officer and I think his research work takes up all the time at his disposal and, therefore, he cannot be expected to discharge his duties as Principal satisfactorily. He has nothing whatever to do with teaching, so that he has no chance whatever of coming into any sort of contact with the students. He is an Economic Botanist working exclusively on paddy, which is one of the most important products in the Presidency. There is any amount of work to be done in that direction and I think he cannot, consistently with the proper discharge of his duty as an Economic Botanist, carry on in addition the work of the Principal. He is perhaps the seniormost officer at present and I think that is why this office of Principal was given to him. But I think mere seniority should not count in matters of this sort. I think the choice of the Principal has, to some extent, reflected on the attendance at the College also. I should like to know from the hon. the Minister for Development the number of admissions that have taken place in this College for the last three years, including the current year. He will find that this year there has been really a fall. I think it is necessary that the Principal should be one who has sufficient time to come in contact with the students and one who has sufficient acquaintance with the different kinds of agricultural operations that are taking place in the Presidency. All these points have been overlooked by appointing this gentleman as the Principal. That is why I say that we must have, as we had till now, an officer of large district experience—a Deputy Director of Agriculture, for the matter of that—who has sufficient leisure to come in contact with the students and otherwise help them in many directions."

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU :—"I second it."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, I desire, with your leave, to raise a point of order in relation to this Motion, inasmuch as motions of this kind have to be regulated by some uniform procedure. Subject to check by my hon. Friend, Sir Charles Todhunter, and subject to verification, I feel fairly sure that this is one of the appointments which have to be made by His Excellency the Governor. Advice may be given to His Excellency the Governor by the Minister in regard to the making of this appointment, but such advice is merely advice. The appointment is by His Excellency the Governor. The question of the point of order which I desire to raise in this debate is whether, having regard to the prerogative of His Excellency the Governor in this matter, this topic may be allowed for discussion, viz., that the privilege of making these appointments may be directed by this Council to flow into particular channels and that persons chosen from a particular class, viz., A, B or C, alone should be eligible for these appointments. That is the question of order that I raise, Mr. President."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"May I say one word, Sir, with reference to the point of order? After all, this Motion is only a recommendation to the Government. The hon. the Law Member stated that it was only advice that can be given by the Minister to His Excellency the Governor and the appointment was to be made by His Excellency and that, therefore, the Motion was out of order. What I say, Sir, in reply to that is, this Resolution itself is only a recommendation."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"To whom?"

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Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"To the Government, and His Excellency the Governor is the head of the Government. So that, after all, Sir, it is only an advice to the Government and it cannot certainly be more than an advice to His Excellency the Governor. Therefore, I submit, Sir, that there is nothing out of order in admitting this Resolution."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"May I say one word, Sir? I think, if I remember correctly, motions of this kind were allowed in the previous Council. I think that then we were proceeding"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I should like to see the precedents."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I think we discussed a number of questions pertaining to the higher appointments on the presumption—well or ill-founded, I cannot say—that the hon. the Ministers, so far as the Transferred Subjects were concerned, were in some way responsible. If, therefore, the hon. the Law Member now raises the question that with regard to these matters the responsibility rests solely with His Excellency the Governor, we are entitled to know whether in regard to the said appointments there has been any change of procedure recently adopted, or whether the old system under which even with regard to the Transferred Subjects ministerial responsibility was in point of fact, whatever it might have been in point of law, the reality still continues."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I say one word, Sir? Under the Government of India Act the Transferred Departments are administered—the actual words of the Act I believe, Sir, are,

'By the Governor acting with the Ministers.'

"And I presume, Sir, that the only way in which the opinion of this House can be brought to bear upon a matter of this kind is by making a recommendation to the Government, that is, the Ministers who form one half of the Government under the Statute. I, therefore, suggest that it has been conceded by the hon. the Law Member that the advice of the Minister is sought and is given and I think if this Motion is to be ruled out of order, those appointments will go out of the control altogether of this Council. I do not think the Government of India Act contemplated when it proposed to transfer departments to the popular Ministers that hereafter these appointments ought to cease to be under the control of this House to the extent to which Resolutions can be made as recommendations. I therefore submit, Sir, that the point of order of the hon. the Law Member is untenable and that this Resolution is therefore in order."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, some confusion has been introduced into this debate by special advertence to the Transferred Departments. There is no distinction in this matter between Reserved Departments and Transferred Departments. In the matter of patronage, His Excellency is the sole source, just as the Crown is the sole source in England, of patronage and appointments. In matters of policy he is guided in regard to the Reserved Subjects under the Government of India Act by the advice and, in certain statutory particulars, by the joint action of the Members of his Council. He is guided in the Transferred Departments by the advice of the Ministers. But this, viz., the power, the privilege and the prerogative of appointments, is a matter solely vested in the Governor ;

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and what I have said does not reflect on the Transferred Subjects in any sense in which it is sought to be interpreted as so reflective. Apart from the question of any particular practice or change of practice, I was only anxious to have it perfectly understood in this House whether in a matter which affects His Excellency's prerogative, that prerogative can be directed or deflected into particular channels by means of such motions as these."

The hon. the RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"I should like to ask for certain information from the hon. the Law Member. In regard to the appointments notified in the Gazette I find that most of those appointments are made by the Government, while some of them are made by His Excellency. We always find

'His Excellency the Governor is pleased to appoint' or 'the Government appoints' and so on.

I should like to know, Sir, whether there is any significance in that kind of publications."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Member, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, want to say anything on this conundrum?" (laughter).

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"My suggestion is whether the Resolution may not be interpreted as a recommendation to the Government to make an advice to the Governor.

3-45 p.m. The hon. the Law Member conceded that the Governor in making an appointment is generally advised by the Minister. The Minister means to us the Government. Therefore, our recommendation to the Government is that the Government might make such and such advice to His Excellency the Governor."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I take it the hon. Member's idea is that it is a sort of double recommendation, first a recommendation to the Government and then a recommendation to the Governor through the Government. Is that the idea?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"It will come to that, Sir. We only recommend to the Government that the Government do advise the Governor to make such and such an appointment. I think we are at perfect liberty to recommend to the Government to give such an advice to the Governor."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, we have to distinguish between the acts of the Governor in his personal capacity by virtue of his prerogatives, and the acts of the Governor as head of the Government. But, whenever he acts in consultation with the Reserved half or the Transferred half, it is an act done by the Governor in pursuance of the provisions of the Government of India Act. There, it is clearly laid down that in all cases of Transferred Subjects, His Excellency the Governor acts in consultation with the Ministers, and therefore, if it is to be held or to be ruled by you, Sir, that all acts done by the Governor in pursuance of that wording of the Government of India Act are out of the purview of this Council, then there will be no scope for any discussion of any such resolutions in this House."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"By this point of order, it is sought to take away from our purview all the appointments made by His Excellency."

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Are they not already beyond your purview? I believe they are.”

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—“ There is a distinction, Sir, about which a good deal of confusion has been made between the prerogative and the power of the Government. If the hon. the Law Member says that every time the power of appointment is exercised by His Excellency, whether he acts with the help of the Ministers or on the advice of his Executive Council, he must be said to be exercising his prerogative, then we can refute the hon. the Law Member by pointing out that this power of appointment is not an exercise of the prerogative. There are certain prerogatives which are well known. But this is only a power of appointment and this is not one of those prerogatives protected in any way by the Statute.”

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—“ Sir, owing to the extraordinary point of order raised after three years of existence of this Council, may I suggest that this subject might be adjourned for further consideration later on because this point strikes at the root of similar resolutions which have been discussed in this Council and passed. After all, it will take away one-third of the work of this Council if such a resolution is to be disallowed.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I should think it will probably be convenient to the House to give me some time to look into this question and pass a ruling. Does the hon. Member, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, agree to the adjournment of this motion two or three days hence?”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Yes, Sir.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ In the meantime, I would like Mr. Ramalinga Reddi to give me a list of precedents as he said that there were numerous precedents of similar motions on Transferred Subjects. I am sure Mr. Ramalinga Reddi, with his usual diligence, would have no difficulty in laying his hands on them.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ Sir, my statement has been borne out by what my hon. Friend Mr. Tanikachala Chettiyar said. The thing is I never thought that a question of a point of order would be taken on a matter like this. I was speaking from memory. In fact, the hon. the Law Member has created the biggest surprise that our Council has had so far. As I said, I was speaking from memory. If it is said that these are all matters of prerogative, then I really wonder what the position of the Ministers should be. In the Joint Committee's Report, it is distinctly said that His Excellency the Governor acts on the advice of the Ministers. The Ministers can make their advice effective either by resigning or by doing some such thing. They are not bound to act as the secretaries to His Excellency. So we have a right to hold the Ministers responsible for these Transferred departments. If the question of prerogative is brought in, the Ministers are reduced to the position of secretaries or civil servants. It is a subject in which, I am sure, the Ministerial side and the Opposition will act in unison.” (Laughter).

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I desire that all things should be clearly understood. Firstly, that in raising this point of order I have not sought in any way to affect the responsibility of

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the Ministers or to minimise their very great functions in the matter of advice. I am as careful a guardian of their interests as the hon. Members of this House can possibly be. In the second place, I desire to be equally clearly understood that the point of order I am raising and the question I am desirous of bringing into definite shape is this: a recommendation such as this, that a particular appointment should be made from amongst the Deputy Directors of Agriculture who happen to be graduates in agriculture and possess the necessary district experience, amounts in effect to giving the Government or the Governor, according as the contention may be made, a restriction within which that appointment has to be made. It is a deflection of the right of appointing; it is the choice of the personnel that is sought to be affected in that way, and it is that I seek to have decided as a point of order."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I fear that all this discussion we have been having for the last half an hour is irregular. Because, points of order are supposed to be decided by the President. On the other hand, we have the President himself asking for the opinions of hon. Members. I would like, if the hon. Member Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar has no objection, to have an adjournment of this question for two or three days."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"As I already said, I have no objection for adjournment."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Then, I will put this on the agenda for Friday morning, and I hope by that time to look into the authorities on the subject and say clearly what I think the rules are. Let us leave it at that. Now I will put the question of adjournment of this Motion to Friday morning, to the House."

The Motion for adjournment was put and agreed to, and the House then passed on to consider the next Motion on the agenda.

DAILY AND MILEAGE ALLOWANCES TO DISTRICT BOARD PRESIDENTS.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, I beg to move—

7. *That this Council recommends to the Government that presidents of district boards be given a daily allowance of Rs. 7-8-0 for all halts and mileage allowance at 10 annas a mile for the first 25 miles and at half the rate for the remainder of the distance when the journey exceeds 20 miles.*

"I know, Sir, that at present presidents of district boards are treated as first-class officers and placed on the footing of district collectors. My Resolution thus introduces a distinction between the scale of travelling allowance paid to the first-class officers at present and the scale to be paid to district board presidents, as what I propose now would be less than what they are receiving at present. I tabled this Resolution deliberately with a view that, though perhaps the members of the services in their zeal for emoluments and other things may cling to extra and extravagant allowances, we at least Indians must set them an example of being content with a lower scale of allowances, so that the moral pressure we may so bring to bear may tell in the long run on other services and so that they may also fall in with us. It is with that object that I have brought forward this Resolution."

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Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“ I beg to second it.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“ Sir, I beg to oppose it. I am a president of a district board myself, and I know that this distinction between the collector and the district board president was abolished in order to raise the status of the district board president. Of course, appeal to the patriotism of members is made. Now, the allowance given to district board presidents is not a living wage but an allowance for the expenses of non-officials also to travel comfortably. The work of the district board president consists, if anything, in travelling about to inspect the high schools, to supervise the road-making and make various other kinds of supervision. He has to purchase and maintain a motor-car, and it is not possible for any district board president, unless he is a *sanyasi*, to go about travelling without an adequate allowance. We find it stated that there will be considerable savings from the travelling allowances drawn. The bursting of tubes and the damages to the tyres and other incidental expenses of travelling swallow all the savings. I do not think the hon. the Mover, by trying to do this sort of thing, will either raise the position of the district board presidents which most of us covet on account of the honorary nature of the work, or maintain the comfort that is necessary for a travelling life. It is true we covet the place, but yet we are not prepared to spend out of our own pockets to meet those expenses of travelling. I would ask the hon. Member in charge of this Resolution whether, after all, all these allowances do not make something for the status and the position of the honorary office. To reduce the daily allowance by Rs. 2½ and restrict the mileage to As. 12 or to do any such thing would not add to the proper maintenance of the position and comfort of the president which are essential for effective administration of extensive areas. I would beg of him to withdraw a resolution like that. My Friend knows that for want of proper supervision carelessness or corruption becomes prevalent. I am glad to say that during the term of many of the non-official presidents of district boards in this Presidency there has been less corruption. The hon. Member in charge of the Resolution knows full well that presidents of district boards have acted most honourably and have kept up the purity of the administration, and no doubt the credit must go to the Minister for Local Self-Government for appointing proper men as presidents. My hon. Friend would excuse me if I have to object to his proposition even on the ground that it will lower the status of the non-official presidents of district boards.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ I also want to oppose the Resolution. In my opinion, no distinction whatever should be made between the status of the collectors and that of the district board presidents. Apart from the question of status, if, in these days of increased cost of living, a district board president has to live comfortably when he has to travel about, this allowance of Rs. 10 a day is not much. I believe that it is also the experience of hon. Members of this Council who come from the mufassal and who live in Madras during the sittings of the Council that this daily allowance of Rs. 10 that is paid to us is not at all much, and I think that what is applicable to Members of this House must also be applicable to presidents of district boards. The mileage of As. 12 is certainly not excessive. Motor-cars are not cheap, and if you do not go in for motor-cars, district board presidents have to go in for some other kind of conveyance

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which would probably prove more costly for all their travelling. Having regard to all these considerations, I do not think it desirable that this House should accept this Resolution of Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Mr. President, my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, asserted that all the presidents of the district boards shall be exactly in the same status as the collectors. But I may be permitted to bring in the question whether the status exactly depends upon the receiving of a certain rate of travelling allowance or mileage."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" Yes, certainly."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Sir, Mr. Kesava Pillai asserts that it is certainly so."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" Including the status of the District Board President of Anantapur."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" He wants to represent the President of the Anantapur District Board ; but I want to know whether he represents his own constituency when he opposes the Motion."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" I do."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" I am glad that he represents his constituency in this respect."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. the Deputy President need not be answering each question as it is put."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—" But he is asking me a lot of questions and I will have no right of reply."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" But you can reply later on and you may apply for special permission to do so under the circumstances."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Sir, I wish that the hon. the Deputy President will allow the same latitude to other hon. Members when he is in the Chair."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" I want to know, Sir, if my hon. Friend has received the mandate of his constituency to support the Motion."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" I had a mandate for seeing that there was retrenchment all round."

" It has been often pointed out that the travelling allowances should never be a source of profit or gain to any Member. That is the general principle which every Member, I think, will certainly accept and even in the case of hiring carts, 10 annas a mile is the rate claimed : in some cases it is only 8 annas. It is clear mathematics that the 12 annas now claimed is extra. We know as a matter of experience that this Council has voted for the reduction of first-class rates to the hon. Members of this House and that was acted upon by the Government and we notice in that case that the Government in order to adhere to the principle enunciated therein has reduced the fares of all first-class officers from double to a one and three-fifths. So also if we carry this Resolution the travelling allowance of the other men also will be cut down in course of time. . . ."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Sir, it is amusing to me how hon. Members on the other side of the House could have one opinion in regard to one thing and another opinion in regard to another matter of a similar nature. We were discussing yesterday the village officers' allowances and I find that my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnan Nayar, voted against the grant of Rs. 20 as minimum pay for the village officers. . . .”

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ Sir, I do not think I ever spoke yesterday and I did not give my reason for my voting ; but I have given my silent vote.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ I am very glad that the hon. Member did not take the House into his confidence. According to his arithmetic there was no money to pay these poor village officers, but now I see that he finds a large amount of money to pay for the benefit of the rich district board presidents. Surely, Sir, there should be retrenchment. It was suggested in that connexion that there were failures of crops, financial stringency and many other things : it is up to these people to set an example to the country of retrenchment and economic living. I do not think we shall be true to ourselves if we are not prepared to cut our own allowances. Speaking as a poor man myself, I do not think I get any allowance for attending the Council because I am in Madras : not even a pie do I get and for my tiffin I am paying from out of my pocket. After all, the Resolution is a modest one and it is time for Indians to cut down these allowances. Therefore, Mr. President, if any one considers that he cannot accept starvation allowances, it is perfectly open to him to say so, so that other patriotic gentlemen may come forward to take their places. It is up to this House as a matter, not of party but of the country as a whole above party to vote solidly for this Resolution.”

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—“ I rise to oppose this Resolution. It is not a matter of status or no status. This reduction of travelling allowance of district board presidents is entirely out of our province ; and the district board itself can bring in a resolution to this effect if they choose.”

(Cries of no, no.)

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“ Yes, it is so.”

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—“ No attempt has been made by the district board. Secondly the Government of Madras have recently passed a Government Order.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“ The Government in their Government Order say that the allowances are fixed by them, but in the case of members of the district board it is left to a maximum to be settled by the board.”

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—“ No, Sir, that was not the Government Order I wanted to refer to. The Government in that Government Order have stated that for a year they should not travel for more than one thousand miles. We are therefore not called upon to pass a Resolution of this sort as long as there is a maximum fixed.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ I want to support this Motion on one or two grounds. The question is, is the district board president supposed to be a bureaucrat having higher powers, higher status than any of the district board members ? If the district board members' allowance is

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taken into consideration, it is much smaller than what is suggested in this Resolution. We know the district board members get double second class and a small allowance of 4 annas. In view of this the rates prescribed by Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar seems all right. Therefore to suppose that as soon as a member is elected or nominated president (even nominated presidents are district board members) he considers himself to be a high bureaucrat and therefore entitled to a luxurious allowance seems to be too much, Sir. Then with regard to the status, Sir, I will read out an answer to a question put in this House. At page 557, volume I, part 1, in answer to an interpellation by my hon. Friend Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar whether it is a fact that the presidentship of the district boards is the highest post in a district in the field of local self-government carrying with it the status and dignity of a district officer, the Minister for the Local Self-Government has replied in clear terms: 'The answer is in the negative.'

"The answer is clear and the presidents of district boards do not enjoy the same status as the district collector. Therefore with that clear statement made by the hon. the Minister by way of answer, need we still argue that the status. . ."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"There was a contrary statement, Sir, made by the late lamented Subbarayalu Reddiyar that the status of the district board president and even that of the chairman of the municipal council is equal to that of a district collector."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I will be glad to have reference to it, Sir. I have given a statement from the proceedings, and if that is to be contradicted, it can be done only by a similar quotation of chapter and verse. Moreover, Sir, I do not know if the hon. Mr. Subbarayalu Reddiyar ever had the port-folio of Local Self-Government; I remember he was the Education Minister.

"Therefore it is no use saying that the status is equal and all that. We should put an end to this sort of payment of too much to those gentlemen that have other sources of income and who should serve the country voluntarily. Even for motor car generally the usual charge is only 8 annas a mile and even then there is a surplus of 2 annas and surely he need not have to pay out of his pocket. There are 12 Members in this Council who are district board presidents and including these gentlemen every one should set an example to such a sort of economy and vote for the proposition."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"The question of laying down a principle to regulate the travelling allowance of the members, vice-presidents and presidents of the local boards, the district and taluk boards, was discussed at length in 1922 and after this discussion the Government issued a Government Order in which they put down some tentative proposals. These proposals were decided upon after consultation with the members of the Advisory Committee. The proposals were published for public criticism and after receipt of criticisms the Government decided the question in 1923 to allow a travelling allowance of Rs. 10 and a mileage of 10 annas as in the case of district collectors. If the House thinks that the rates are too much, it is for them to reduce. It is a matter in which the Government cannot give any definite decision. It is more for the local boards and the representatives of the local boards to decide."

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Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" I am myself a president of a district board, Sir, and it is perfectly immaterial, as far as I am concerned, whether the rate is cut down or retained. But the funds out of which these allowances are paid come out of the local bodies themselves and as the honour and prestige of a local board are also involved in this question, I think we may refer this matter to the respective local boards to decide, and if any district board considers there should be a reduction, that may be done. The question may be left to the good sense of the district boards to contribute to the travelling allowance of the presidents. I do not know why this Council should lay down any principle under which the district boards should act. As the funds out of which the travelling allowance is paid do not belong to the public exchequer and belongs only to the local body, I think this is a matter for them to consider. I may mention for the information of my hon. Friend Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju that the travelling allowance of the district board presidents are fixed taking into consideration the allowances given to the collector of a district.

" In one of the papers referred to in the Government Order it is distinctly stated by the Government that the district board presidents are equal in status to the district collector. It is on that principle that Government have fixed the travelling allowance and fixed the total that can be drawn by any district board president."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Is there any limitation in the case of the collectors ? "

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" No. Therefore I say that the Government have placed the district board presidents on a par with the collector but placed a limitation on the total amount. I therefore think, Sir, that in a matter of this kind, instead of leaving the matter to be decided by this Council, it is better to leave the matter to the district board presidents themselves so that they may decide what amount may be given. We ought not to interfere in a thing which relates to their own funds. I think we should respect the district boards in this subject and leave the matter to their own decision."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I want to ask one question. Does the collector ever call on the district board president ? "

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" Nor does the district board president call on the Collector."

At this stage, the hon. the President vacated the Chair and the Deputy President occupied it. He called for 'Ayes and Noes'. 'Ayes' responded at the pitch of their voice, while the 'Noes' did not make theirs felt. The Deputy President paused a minute before making his declaration, when Mr. Satyamurti interjected that 'Ayes have it'.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" It is I that must give the declaration, Mr. Satyamurti."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am very sorry. I apologise to you, Sir."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" The 'Ayes' have it. The Resolution is carried."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI said :—" Mr. President, Sir, may I request you to let me know, before taking up the next item on the Agenda, whether there will be time enough for me to finish my speech. I do not want to deliver half the speech to-day and half to-morrow."

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The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I think you have time enough."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" When are we to rise, Sir ? "

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I am entirely in the hands of the President. As there is still half an hour, the hon. Member had better proceed with his speech."

At this stage the hon. the President took the Chair.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask a question, Mr. President, Sir ? I have been asked by the hon. the Deputy President to move the Resolution. I was just asking whether I shall have time to finish my speech. May I request you to be so good as to allow me to move the same to-morrow ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The Mover will certainly have his 30 minutes."

THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Mr. President, Sir, the Resolution which I have the honour to move runs as follows :—

8. *That this Council recommends to the Government of Madras that it should withdraw from any further participation in the British Empire Exhibition of 1924 to be held in London.*

" I desire to say, Mr. President, that I move this Resolution with a full sense of my responsibility to this House, to my constituency, to my Presidency and to my country. I venture to say to this House that my Resolution is a very modest one and seeks to give expression in a very mild form to what I am sure will be acknowledged in every quarter of the House, to be the resentment, sorrow and humiliation which we Indians have been put to in the matter of the status and position of Indians in the Empire as a result of the decision of His Majesty's Government with regard to the Indians in Kenya. I am sure that my Resolution appeals to every section of political opinion in this House, whether we are Hindus or Muhammadans, Christians or depressed classes, liberals or progressives, independents or nationalists, and may I add in all humility non-Indians also who have made India their home and who therefore must feel that the honour and dignity of India is their honour and their dignity at least so long as they eat the salt of India ? I therefore hope that this House will give its unanimous vote in support of this Resolution. It is a very small attempt at the assertion of India's manhood, of India's self-respect and the expression of India's outraged dignity in the matter of her status in the Empire. I am very glad that such pronounced Ministerialists like Mr. Muniswami Nayudu of Chittoor and Mr. Krishnan Nayar before their elections had pledged themselves to the boycott of the British Empire Exhibition (hear, hear !). I therefore consider, Sir, that my task will be rendered easier and that the Resolution will receive support from every quarter of the House. I also consider that it is a matter of happy augury that just now the portfolio of the Minister who is in charge of the Resolution is in different hands. I do not say it for any other reasons. My hon. Friend the present Minister for Development can bring a fresh mind to bear on the question with the weight of the Kenya decision upon his mind and heart. My hon. Friend Sir K. V. Reddi can now speak free from the official trammels of his position which he held when he recommended the Resolution (laughter). Sir, I do hope that the Ministerial benches will remember that they are here not merely to translate to this House the wishes of the Government but also to translate to the House,

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to the extent to which they can and they may, the wishes of the people. Thus, therefore, in this House who can deny that throughout India there is a strong feeling of resentment against this treatment and an anxiety that some expression ought to be given to this feeling in the country? Last but not least, Sir, I have the high authority of the Ministerial organ, the paper called *Justice* which wrote on the 19th of October 1923 thus:

'We agree, of course, that such proposals as the boycott of the Empire Exhibition and the boycott of British goods will be looked upon with positive disfavour by the British public and Parliament. All the same, it is no use forgetting the fact that it is the country's sense of utter impotence in any other manner to bring home to the British public its intense disgust and resentment over the Kenya betrayal that has given birth to such proposals. Every one realizes the economic hardships involved in a boycott of British goods as also the disadvantages from a commercial point of view arising from the boycott of the Empire Exhibition; but the racial and the political implications underlying the Kenya decisions are so revolting to our sense of national self-respect and honour that some of us are even prepared to undergo all the sacrifices involved if only we could thereby convey to the British public even a faint impression of the great indignation felt by one and all of us.'

"I do not think I can improve upon the temper of the language in which the feeling of the country has been expressed in that Ministerial organ. (Hear, hear.) Then, Sir, we have the authority of the great liberal school of politicians in this country whose mouthpiece, *The Servant of India*, in its issue of 6th December 1923—a paper which is so moderate that in its latest article it congratulates this House on continuing this Ministry in power (laughter)—says thus:

'It is generally agreed that India's non-participation in the British Empire Exhibition will, if feasible, give a striking expression to her resentment and humiliation at the Kenya decision. The Imperial authorities are setting much store by it and they will feel very keenly abstention on the part of India from such a sham. To it will be attracted people from all over the world, and if we are able to organize an effective boycott, we shall thereby bring home to influential men in all the countries the brand of inferiority which His Majesty's Government itself is seeking to put on Indians overseas.'

"The Right hon. Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, a Member of the Privy Council of His Majesty the King-Emperor, on whom the Freedom of the City of London was conferred recently, and a man who, as every one knows him, knows, weighs his words most carefully, wrote very recently, that

'The dominions displeased at a comparatively trifling arrangement made by the authorities of the Exhibition threatened non-participation and carried the point. That is the way in which serious displeasure shows itself. If our Government'

and may I appeal to the Ministerial Government, I call them our Government as well—if our Government

'would take such a step, no Cabinet will think of treating it as they have now treated in the case of Kenya.'

"Then, Sir, we have the Resolution agreed to by all the political parties throughout India for the carrying of which Dr. Besant more than any one else is responsible—a Resolution signed by all the leaders of all political schools of India. It reads thus:

'That the British Empire Exhibition be boycotted by the Indian Government and by all agencies, official and private, as outraged India does not desire to be paraded before the world as a nation impotent to obtain redressal for the wrong which has just been inflicted on her, and, therefore, as a ground favourable for white exploitation, and as a place where cheap coloured labour can be obtained to enrich the Empire, which denies her equality of position therein.'

"Last but not least, Mr. President, His Excellency Lord Reading's Government says thus in a Resolution which they published on the 28th April 1923:

'At the same time, they (meaning the Government of India) cannot but record their deep regret that His Majesty's Government did not feel justified in giving greater effect to the

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recommendations made by them to the Secretary of State for India. They must reserve to themselves the opportunity of making such representations as may be necessary whenever in future a legitimate opportunity should present itself either as a result of experience gained or by change of events or otherwise'.

"I venture to submit to this House, Mr. President, that my Resolution, if approved by this House, will considerably strengthen the hands of His Excellency Lord Reading and his Government in pressing this point on the Home Government.

"I now refer to a speech made by my Friend, Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru, in Bombay, soon after his landing, where he mentioned that His Excellency Lord Reading's telegram to him communicating to him the resolution of the Bombay Corporation threatening the boycott of British goods considerably strengthened his hands. If this Council sends this Resolution to London and to all places where Imperial statesmen meet in conclave, there will be a stir and they will know that these Indians are not children to be played with, but men who have self-respect to assert and who know how to assert it. That is why I submit to this House that on every consideration this Resolution ought to be passed; and may I appeal to every section of this House that whatever our political differences with regard to other questions may be, where it is a question of Indian national self-respect and dignity, we shall all act according to the great maxim of Yudhishtara in Mahabharata :

‘ परस्पराविरोधेषु वयं पञ्चोत्तरं शतम् ॥

that is, where we do not differ, the Kauravas and Pandavas, we are not 100 against 5 but we are 105.' May I, therefore, suggest that all Members of this House must join together and say 'we 127 members are united in this matter and demand that India's outraged dignity should be retrieved'? I can advance, Mr. President, many grounds in support of my Resolution. I need mention only one, viz., the position of Indians in practically every part of the Empire. I have been out of this country and Mr. President, you have been, and many other Indians have been, and we know how humiliating it is to go out and to be identified as a coolie race. We who have produced the greatest giants in intellect, in character, we are branded as belonging to an inferior civilization because we are treated in our own Empire as helots. We know what it is and we are anxious that those who have not been out of India may also feel with us and take it from us that until India asserts her dignity, she will continue to be treated as a helot within the Empire. If there are any friends here who still suggest that whatever the indignity may be, whatever the outrage to self-respect may be, we should still take part in the British Imperial Exhibition for various reasons, I can only answer them, 'shall I bend low and in a bondman's key, with bated breath and whispering humbleness' and say this in the immortal words of Shakespeare: 'Fair, Sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last; you spurned me on such a day; another time you called me dog; and for these courtesies, I will take part in your exhibition.' I do hope that there is no Indian so barren of feeling, no Indian so thoughtless of his country's dignity as will say this. Sir, this exhibition is not a mere material exhibition. It is an assertion of the moral might of the British Empire and in saying this I have the very high authority of the Duke of Devonshire, who, while speaking at a luncheon given to the Prince of Wales, said that this exhibition is intended as an assertion of the moral might of the Empire. And I ask my friends who are Indians, who have no place in the

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Empire, whether they are going to be present there or allow their countrymen to be present or allow their country's products to be there? I can find only one analogy and that in times of old, viz., when the Roman Emperors returned after their conquests they drove in the streets of Rome in their chariots of triumph with slaves tied to the chariot wheels. Even so we Indians as slaves and helots, can we go to the Wembley park and be shown as slaves and helots of the British Empire? I do not think that any Indian of this House who realizes that will agree to that position willingly. I know that an argument will be advanced—and I anticipate it—that this Council has already passed a Resolution on the 12th September 1922. But much water has flown even in the Coom since then. We find that conditions have radically changed and Kenya has intervened and from the answer the hon. the Development Minister gave this morning, we learn that only a sum of Rs. 50,000 and odd has been spent and we have got yet to spend two lakhs and odd. Therefore, I think, we can still save this amount and go no further and cause no further loss to the Government or to the people. Why I ask this House not to take this Kenya insult lying down is this: that it is a case not of England's standing by and allowing a self-governing dominion to have her own way; but, for His Majesty's Cabinet under whose direct control and Government Kenya is, to say 'we, who stood for equality in times of war, having fought in Holland, Flanders and France with Indians now that the war is over and we are secure, there is no more place for you except as slaves and you will be treated only as helots', is most insulting. I hope this will burn into the soul of every Indian here. I cannot put this better than in the words again of Mr. Sastri himself who says that

'It is a refinement of ingratitude and tyranny, the thought of which still lacerates my heart though it has been my constant companion night and day during some months. It may not be pleasing to Government, but is good for them to know that there is hardly an intelligent or patriotic Indian, who does not interpret and lament the Kenya settlement in the way I do.'

"I do not think I need detail to this House all the various details of the wrong inflicted upon my country; but I want to mention this point, viz., that this unnatural and unjust settlement is made all the more unnatural and all the more unjust because of the superior claims of Indians for fair treatment in that country. I am sure my hon. Friends must have read times without number the quotation from Mr. Winston Churchill's book on East Africa. I only want to read the last sentence of that quotation:

'Is it possible for any Government with a scrap of respect for honest dealing between man and man to embark on a policy of deliberately squeezing that native of India from regions in which he has established himself under every security of public faith?'

"Apart from past services during the war, Indians have fought on the fields of East Africa and the Empire and to-day the facts are that among the population of Kenya there are 9,651 European settlers according to the latest statistics available to me and 35,355 Asiatics of whom more than two-thirds are Indian and 2½ millions of Africans and the most significant fact of it all is that the Indian population has not increased for all these years but has decreased. For all these services what we have to-day is this: that with regard to franchise, we are given a communal franchise and we are told that for ever and ever we shall be racial inferiors in a British colony. We are excluded, secondly, from the highlands and we are told that we cannot acquire lands there. With regard to immigration, the matter is cleverly worded as all Government despatches usually are, but ultimately it comes to this, that all the classes to be discriminated against are Indians. Then all

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recommendations made by them to the Secretary of State for India. They must reserve to themselves the opportunity of making such representations as may be necessary whenever in future a legitimate opportunity should present itself either as a result of experience gained or by change of events or otherwise'.

"I venture to submit to this House, Mr. President, that my Resolution, if approved by this House, will considerably strengthen the hands of His Excellency Lord Reading and his Government in pressing this point on the Home Government.

"I now refer to a speech made by my Friend, Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru, in Bombay, soon after his landing, where he mentioned that His Excellency Lord Reading's telegram to him communicating to him the resolution of the Bombay Corporation threatening the boycott of British goods considerably strengthened his hands. If this Council sends this Resolution to London and to all places where Imperial statesmen meet in conclave, there will be a stir and they will know that these Indians are not children to be played with, but men who have self-respect to assert and who know how to assert it. That is why I submit to this House that on every consideration this Resolution ought to be passed; and may I appeal to every section of this House that whatever our political differences with regard to other questions may be, where it is a question of Indian national self-respect and dignity, we shall all act according to the great maxim of Yudhishtara in Mahabharata :

‘ परस्पराविरोधेषु वयं पञ्चोत्तरं शतम् ॥

that is, where we do not differ, the Kauravas and Pandavas, we are not 100 against 5 but we are 105.' May I, therefore, suggest that all Members of this House must join together and say 'we 127 members are united in this matter and demand that India's outraged dignity should be retrieved'? I can advance, Mr. President, many grounds in support of my Resolution. I need mention only one, viz., the position of Indians in practically every part of the Empire. I have been out of this country and Mr. President, you have been, and many other Indians have been, and we know how humiliating it is to go out and to be identified as a coolie race. We who have produced the greatest giants in intellect, in character, we are branded as belonging to an inferior civilization because we are treated in our own Empire as helots. We know what it is and we are anxious that those who have not been out of India may also feel with us and take it from us that until India asserts her dignity, she will continue to be treated as a helot within the Empire. If there are any friends here who still suggest that whatever the indignity may be, whatever the outrage to self-respect may be, we should still take part in the British Imperial Exhibition for various reasons, I can only answer them, 'shall I bend low and in a bondman's key, with bated breath and whispering humbleness' and say this in the immortal words of Shakespeare: 'Fair, Sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last; you spurned me on such a day; another time you called me dog; and for these courtesies, I will take part in your exhibition.' I do hope that there is no Indian so barren of feeling, no Indian so thoughtless of his country's dignity as will say this. Sir, this exhibition is not a mere material exhibition. It is an assertion of the moral might of the British Empire and in saying this I have the very high authority of the Duke of Devonshire, who, while speaking at a luncheon given to the Prince of Wales, said that this exhibition is intended as an assertion of the moral might of the Empire. And I ask my friends who are Indians, who have no place in the

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part of the Whites. I do say with all respect, Mr. President, that Great Britain seems to have lost her secret of Government or even holding an Empire. This is but the thin end of the wedge. Let Kenya remain and soon there will be in all parts of the Empire secessions and threats and we who have brought forward this Resolution before this House are, I submit, in all humility, the real friends of the Empire, not hypocrites who go and tell the Britisher 'we are safe in your hands; give us more and more kicks and we will bear them all.' They are hypocrites who say that. But we are true friends. We say that there is a cancer in one part of the body and tell them 'your body will soon die withering under that growing cancer.'

4-45 p.m. "That is why, Sir, I submit that this Resolution is a humble but very necessary reminder to the Empire of the need of the Empire adjusting herself to the various conflicting racial claims within it. I know the argument will be advanced that we are likely to benefit by the Exhibition monetarily. I do not desire to go into this question now, but I may say that man does not live by bread alone. Even supposing that we are likely to get some money, is it worth having at the cost of national self-respect? And will the hon. the Minister for Development rise in his place and satisfy this House that these are the Exhibits which are going to find a new market owing to the Exhibition and these are roughly the millions of pounds or the crores of rupees which this Presidency is going to get as a result of its participation in the Exhibition? Sir, I know something of economics, of the laws of supply and demand. In these days of wireless communication I do not believe that Exhibitions really promote trade. Are our traders so insignificant that they do not know how to advertise their goods? Are our means of communication so antediluvian that our people do not know as to how we can introduce our products into the markets of the world? I do hope that this House will ask for facts as to what is going to be achieved by participating in this Exhibition.

"Then, Sir, it is said that our boycott of this Exhibition may not be effective. To that my answer is in the words of Mr. Sastri :

'Where one is in the grip of a big bully, patient and philosophic submission is no remedy. To hit out all with one's strength may not be effective either, but it is at least a vindication of one's manhood. The poet has said that the imprisoned cobra strikes not so much to punish the tormentor as out of wounded pride.'

"The hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu, when moving this Resolution, gave away the whole case when he said : 'It may be in our province, we may not be able to send many industrial products, but in ordinary raw products, I think, we can excel many other countries of the Empire', and what are those products? They are 'best cotton', whatever that phrase may mean, 'best skins and hides and oil seeds'. I ask, are these products to be exported to be manufactured and sent back to India? Sir, this has been the economic evil of India and the hon. the Minister for Development wants that India should be reduced to the position of hewers of wood and drawers of water and that whatever they may reap should go to the profit, not of our own children, but to the other people of the Empire. The answer to this is given that, if you do not participate in this exhibition, you will be guilty of disloyalty. Sir, there is only one person on God's earth to whom we owe allegiance and that is to His Majesty the King-Emperor. I have no loyalty to Australia. I have no loyalty to East Africa. I do not see therefore what the considerations of loyalty are. And if they say 'it will be misunderstood by other people; if you do not take part in the exhibition you will be considered

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disloyal', my answer to that will be, Sir, I speak as an Indian. I am also made of the same flesh and blood as the Englishmen and I will ask any of you who understand human nature to note this quotation

'Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections passions, fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?' And 'if you wrong us', may I ask this House to say 'shall we not resent?'.

"That is the least we can say and we ought to say.

"The recent Imperial Conference about which so much has been quoted in the newspapers has practically done nothing. I do not seek to minimise in any manner the services rendered by our representative, Dr. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, in England, but I may say that the Overseas Committee is going to be a costly farce. But if this Committee is appointed in the meantime we shall be strengthening their hands by this Resolution. There is no necessary conflict, if only we are able to carry this Resolution, between our loyalty to the King-Emperor and the position which has been assigned to us in the Empire and I appeal therefore to every Member of this House, Mr. President, not to view this question as a party question. It is by mere accident that I am moving this Resolution and I hope my Friends on the other side of the House will not take it amiss. If I venture to move this Resolution it is because I desire to vindicate the wounded pride of India. And when I ask you to vote for this Resolution unanimously, I am not asking you to foreswear your feeling for the Empire, but to say with me—and I am sure every Indian must say—'not that I love the Empire less but that I love India more.' If that is the feeling of every Indian, I hope this Resolution will be unanimously carried."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"Sir, I rise to second the Resolution which has been so ably and so eloquently moved by my Friend, the hon. Member for the University of Madras and after the lucid exposition of facts and the convincing arguments with which he has presented the case before the House, there is very little left for me to say.

"Whatever might be the merits or virtues of the British Empire Exhibition which had prompted us to submit meekly to the proposal to participate in it originally, they have, at any rate, ceased to exist now and the recent events and circumstances must warrant our entire withdrawal from any further participation therein. We were told that, on political grounds, the Exhibition would be a unifying factor and the warm hand of fellowship would be held out to the Indian, if he were to meet the other partners of the Empire on a common platform. But those who were optimistic enough to say so failed to notice the fact that a dire disease, Indo-Phobia, if I may call it, had overtaken the other partners of the Empire, the Colonials especially, and the disease being of an infectious character had spread like wildfire to every nook and corner of the Empire. The Colonials have already begun to exhibit the premonitory symptoms of that strange malady, viz., to scorn the Indians living in their territories and to segregate and shun them and despite the sweet pills and soothing balms of Sarmas, Sastris and Saprus, the disease shows no signs of abatement. Kenya is the worst sufferer at this moment and it is going mad at the thought of an Indian, at the sight of an Indian and at the very word 'Indian.' Every possible remedy has been tried—flowing oratory, sweet platitudes, kind persuasion, and even mild threats—by those compatriots of the Colonies from the Premier to the Viceroy, to no avail.

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The Colonial is adamant. Retaliation is *the, and the only*, cure and unless we Indians are prepared to administer a strong dose of 'Retaliation', there is absolutely no salvation for the oppressed millions of our countrymen in those Colonies. While such is the case, the so-called unity and solidarity of the British Empire aimed at by the Exhibition is only a mockery, and if we have any grit in us, we must refuse to take part any further in this Exhibition, which would be the first step in the process of retaliation.

"Coming next to the economic aspect of the question, we were assured by the powers that be, that the Exhibition would serve as the best medium for the mutual exchange of thoughts and ideas and the means of developing our own resources. Our raw products would attract the attention of the Empire and there would be greater demand for them which might induce a larger outturn—barring of course those human exhibits, I mean the dancing girls of Southern India, whom it was proposed to be included in the list of raw products of our Presidency for exhibition in London, and who, on better sense prevailing, were dropped out, but not until after vigorous protests from all quarters. Whatever arguments economists may adduce in defence of this Exhibition, I hold, from a common-sense point of view, the opinion that an industrially backward country like India can never profit by an exhibition of its raw products alone. There is already too much exploitation in the land by vested interests and this Exhibition would give room for greater exploitation which would help the industries of the other parts of the Empire, but would bring in economic distress to our own country. Exhibition of industries is one thing and that of raw products quite another. With no definite fiscal policy of our own, it will be hazardous to participate in an exhibition of this kind. To be forewarned is to be forearmed and let us therefore mend our ways before it is too late.

"Lastly comes the question of cost. The Exhibition entails the maintenance of a huge establishment here and in London, with heavy bills of freight, allowances and other contingencies, which will be a great burden to the poor tax-payer. Indian can ill-afford to meet this heavy expenditure and our Presidency especially is in a worse plight now with famine and distress knocking at our doors consequent on the havoc caused by the floods in South Kanara, Ganjam and Vizagapatam and the misery and starvation already experienced as a result of drought in parts such as Anantapur, Kurnool, Cuddapah and some other districts.

"We will not be true to our constituencies if we do not try to conserve all our resources to combat the impending famine and distress, and one of the means would be to economise expenditure in this direction. Enough unto the day is the evil thereof. I hope the hon. Members will realize the gravity of the situation and solidly vote for this motion unswayed by any considerations of policy or delicacy in the matter."

The House then adjourned (at 5 p.m.) to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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APPENDIX

[Vide page 246 supra]

G.O. No. 1054, Finance, dated 4th December 1923.

READ—the following papers:—

I

G.O. No. 366, Finance, dated 1st April 1921.

ABSTRACT.—Resolution of the Legislative Council for the formation of a Finance Committee accepted by Government.

II

G.O. No. 400, Finance, dated 1st May 1922.

ABSTRACT.—Committees—Public Accounts and Finance—Constitution of —1922-23.

Order—No. 1054, Finance, dated 4th December 1923.

The Standing Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the remainder of the year 1923-24 will be constituted as follows:—

Nominated by His Excellency the Governor.

- (1) Hon. Sir Charles Todhunter, K.C.S.I., I.C.S. (Chairman).
- (2) R. W. Davies, Esq., I.C.S., M.L.C.
- (3) M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhacharlu Garu, M.L.C.

Elected by the Non-official Members of the Council.

- (4) M.R.Ry. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar Avargal, M.L.C.
- (5) Janab Muhammad Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C.
- (6) M.R.Ry. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar Avargal, M.L.C.
- (7) C. Nicholson, Esq., M.L.C.
- (8) Rai Bahadur Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu, Kt., M.L.C.
- (9) Dr. P. Subbarayan, M.L.C.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

R. W. DAVIES,
Secretary to Government.

To all Departments of the Secretariat.
 „ the Accountant-General.
 „ all Secretaries of Departments.
 „ all Members of the Finance Committee.
 „ the Secretary, Legislative Council (for communication to
 Members of the Legislative Council).